

STARS AND STRIPES®

**Maryland drops
Duke in OT;
UNC tops UConn**

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Maryland's John Gilchrist (11) and Duke's Daniel Ewing

**Parents urged
to use Misawa child
development service**

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Miami's Dwyane Wade

**Heat defeat
Spurs for first
time in 3 years**

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2005

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USFJ chief touts U.S.-Japan alliance



Lt. Gen. Bruce A. Wright

Strong ties 'contributing to East Asian stability,' says Wright

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Reservist with no reservations

When duty calls,
Tenn. Seabee, 29,
ready to serve
in Iraq despite
having wife,
11 kids at home

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Navy reservist Johnnie Chennault and his wife, Ronda, gather Friday with their 11 children at their home in Springfield, Tenn. From left are Stephen, 15; Jakob, 2; Jobie, 14; Mikal, 6; Syerra, 4; Gracee, 3; Johnnie IV, 7; Joshua, 12; Zakari, 8; Terr', 17; and eight-month-old Nikalus. Chennault leaves for training and then will be deployed to Iraq.

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Study ship repaired: A study abroad vessel that had stopped almost two weeks ago for repairs and inspections in Honolulu Harbor has passed muster and set sail for Asia. The Semester at Sea ship, a floating classroom that takes students to ports around the world, departed Honolulu on Saturday for Ho Chi Minh City.

The 700 college students in the program are scheduled to reboard the ship in India.

Wal-Mart child labor cases: Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's largest retailer, will pay \$135,540 to settle federal charges that it broke child labor laws, the Labor Department said Saturday.

The 24 violations, which occurred at stores in Arkansas, Connecticut and New Hampshire, had to do with teenage workers who used hazardous equipment such as a chain saw, paper balers and fork lifts.

Wal-Mart denied the allegations but agreed to pay the penalty.

Hurricane fraud: From Miami to Winter Haven to Starke, Floridians have accused their neighbors, colleagues and even their own relatives of taking advantage of the hurricanes by collecting disaster assistance they didn't deserve.

Since Hurricane Charley slammed the state Aug. 13, the first of four last season, more than 110 people throughout Florida have contacted the state attorney general to report fraud against the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Presidential campaign spending: The battle for Ohio in last year's presidential campaign came with a huge price tag: \$100 million for television advertising alone, according to a new study.

Ohio residents saw "a level of campaign activity unprecedented in modern times," according to the study released last week by five political science professors from the universities of Cincinnati and Akron.

World

Saudi Arabian elections: Saudi Arabia's Interior Minister dismissed allegations that winners in the first round of the kingdom's nationwide municipal elections are Islamists, and asserted that voters are free to elect whomever they deem fit.

Dozens of the 640 candidates who lost in the first round of elections said they will con-



BO FLANNIGAN/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Small pox shots at sea: Petty Officer 3rd Class Jamie Walker conducts a small pox vaccinations aboard the USS Kitty Hawk. The aircraft carrier, permanently based at Yokosuka, Japan, currently is at sea.

test the results of the poll, claiming that the winning candidates in Riyadh were on a list that claimed to be endorsed by Islamic clerics.

American hostages in Colombia: U.S. Embassy officials in Bogota, Colombia, Friday remembered three Americans who were captured by leftist rebels two years ago.

U.S. Ambassador William Wood, in a somber ceremony marking the second anniversary of the capture of the three U.S. military contractors, said he was disappointed that rewards offered by the U.S. government for the Americans have produced insufficient results. Wood asked God for their prompt return.

Israel prisoner release: Israel's Cabinet on Sunday approved a list of names of 500 Palestinian prisoners to be released in coming days and several hundred Palestinian workers returned to jobs in Israel after months of closure, in line with agreements reached at a Mideast summit last week.

Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas, meanwhile, was to present a new Cabinet to his Fatah movement for approval Tuesday.

Sri Lanka cease-fire: Sri Lanka's fragile cease-fire has come under new strain after the deadly ambush of a top rebel command-

er and a grenade attack on a guerrilla office, a truce monitor said Sunday.

Unidentified assailants lobbed a grenade at a Tamil Tiger office late Saturday, killing one person and wounding two others. Days earlier, a top insurgent leader was gunned down with five others.

Afghan crash recovery: NATO and Afghan troops retrieved the flight recorder from a crashed Afghan airliner Sunday, an Afghan official said, 10 days after the plane smashed into a mountain in a snowstorm, killing all 104 people on board.

The first clear weather in nearly a week allowed helicopters to ferry troops and investigators to the crash site, 10,000 feet up a snow-covered peak about 20 miles east of the capital, officials said.

Togo riots: Togo's Army-installed President Faure Gnassingbe ignored international condemnation Sunday for his handling of street riots in which at least three protesters were killed, instead praising his police force and deploring demonstrators.

Opposition leaders said the number of protesters killed in Saturday's demonstration had risen to seven. Government officials did not confirm the claim.

Stories from wire services

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Past Japan tours a plus for USJF chief

Wright: N. Korea nuclear threat shows importance of U.S.-Japan ties

BY JULIANA GITTLER

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — On his first full day as commander of U.S. Forces Japan, the top news item of the day exemplified some of the challenges Lt. Gen. Bruce A. Wright will face in his tenure as the top U.S. military official in Japan.

North Korea acknowledged publicly for the first time that it has nuclear weapons.

"That kind of headline makes the U.S.-Japan relationship very important," Wright said Friday.

As commander of USJF, and the 5th Air Force, Wright must balance the military and social challenges of any commander; but with it he must also handle the geopolitical and diplomatic concerns in the region.

Wright also takes the helm during one of the most tumultuous times in modern U.S.-Japanese relations, as the two countries discuss potentially sweeping changes to the U.S. force posture in Japan.

Simultaneously, Japan is assist-

ing in global events, including in Iraq, in unprecedented ways.

But past tours at Misawa and Kadena air bases, as well as with USJF, have prepared him, he said.

"What I found from my experience before is if you work very closely with the Japanese on any one of (the transformation) issues, you'll eventually get to the right answer. ... My time is going to be spent working closely with the embassy, the Government of Japan, the Japan Self-Defense Force and working closely with our local governments."

His focus, he said, will be on continuing positive U.S.-Japanese relations, ensuring U.S. military readiness and supporting the servicemen's and families he commands.

USJF includes more than 113,000 servicemen, families and civilian employees based throughout Japan.

"First and foremost, I'm committed to being the best possible leader and boss for (servicemen's) and families in U.S. Forces Japan," he said. "It's my job to en-

sure that the military members and their families stationed in Japan have the best possible facilities like schools and (exchange), and that we take care of those families."

Wright said he can appreciate the challenges of being stationed overseas after having served tours in both Europe and Japan. With those challenges, he added, come great rewards.

"I certainly would like to encourage our military members and their families to take advantage of (living abroad), because once you look back you'll find this is one of the most rewarding, if not the most rewarding, assignments you'll ever have," he said. Among his goals as commander, he said, will be encouraging recreation and enjoying Japan, along with promoting safety.

"Our safety programs have to be the best we can make them. It's a tragedy when any military or family member dies in an accident. We've proven over the years that our goal of zero fatalities is achievable," he said. However, it is the people on the ground who can make the most difference.

"In many cases lives are saved not by the commander's safety program but by the staff sergeant's safety program. Your senior airman counterpart, your corporal counterpart, your E-1, E-2, E-3 counterpart who reminds you to fasten your seatbelt is a hero in my mind."

Wright said another of his objectives as commander will be promoting readiness.

"No. 2 on my list, but not necessarily by priority, is 24-by-7, best-possible joint and bilateral combat readiness and unwavering commitment to the highest levels of military professionalism. That is what we do and that is who we are."

Meeting those objectives — supporting people and promoting readiness and professionalism — will help support the U.S. alliance with Japan: the most important alliance the United States has, he said.

"At this point in its history, the U.S.-Japan alliance is contributing to East Asian stability, from humanitarian assistance in tsunami-stricken regions in Asia, to



Lt. Gen. Bruce A. Wright

support for Iraqi and Afghani men, women and children," he said.

Wright added that one of his challenges as commander will be maintaining the engagement with Japanese forces and staying as informed as possible to offer the greatest support to Pacific Command.

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JENNIFER H. SWAN/Stars and Stripes

Isabel Polakof, EDIS speech language pathologist, asks Melody Matsueda, 4, to name different objects during a screening last week at Misawa Air Base, Japan. EDIS and Department of Defense Dependents Schools saw about 30 to 40 children last week during free screenings to learn whether any of the children possibly might have developmental delays or disabilities.

EDIS gives slow-starting kids a boost

BY JENNIFER H. SWAN

Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Sometimes the stigma is the biggest hurdle.

Unable to accept that one's child lags developmentally, a parent may not seek help that's only a phone call away, say staff members with Misawa's Educational and Developmental Intervention Services, or EDIS.

"I've seen where the parents didn't know [about the program], but sometimes it's total denial," said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Doug Dumas, an EDIS physical therapist and the program's division head.

At Misawa, EDIS is a satellite clinic of U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka available to fami-

lies of all branches of government service.

EDIS provides services to eligible infants and toddlers at military installations in the States and overseas. Also, it renders medical services, such as occupational and physical therapy, to school-age children in special-education programs at Department of Defense Dependents Schools overseas.

Last week EDIS and DODDS tested from 30 to 40 children at Misawa for potential developmental delays or disabilities during its annual five days of free screenings, Dumas said. Parents, however, may make an appointment to have their child evaluated at any time throughout the year, he said.

SEE EDIS ON PAGE 5

AF grounds 30, restricts 60 C-130s showing stress signs

BY JULIANA GITTLER

Stars and Stripes

Air Force officials grounded 30 C-130 Hercules airplanes and restricted 60 others around the force Thursday due to stress cracks in the aircrafts' center wing box structure, where the wings meet the frame, officials said.

Three of the restricted aircraft are at Yokota Air Base, Japan.

The move came on the advice of the C-130 System Program Office at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., the body responsible for managing the Air Force C-130 fleet.

Inspectors have discovered stress cracks in the box structure during inspections since 2001, officials said. Using a formula of flight hours compounded by certain maneuvers, the System Program Office determined that certain aircraft must be restricted or grounded.

The restricted aircraft still are able to fly, but with shorter hours or reduced loads, officials said.

"It doesn't mean they're unsafe. The aircraft are still safe to fly," said Capt. Dave Faggard, a Pacific Air Force spokesman at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

One more Yokota C-130 may be restricted in three to four months, when it reaches a certain number of computed flight hours, Faggard said.

A fourth PACAF aircraft at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, also may be affected in six to nine months, Faggard said.

The problem is not new for the C-130s. About 20 years ago, most of the planes had their wings replaced to extend the life of the aircraft, said Col. Mark Schissler, commander of the 374th Airlift Wing, which operates about 10 C-130s.

The more difficult the flying opera-

tions, including flying low, carrying heavy loads and operating in turbulence, the more stress on the wing box.

"It's the most critical part of keeping the plane together. That is the part of the airplane where we're seeing cracks develop," Schissler said. "It's not a surprise. We know these aircraft are aging and we use them hard."

The affected planes will remain restricted until the Air Force decides what to do next: either repair them — a potentially extensive process — or retire them.

In the meantime, flight engineers of the affected aircraft will be required to follow new restrictions designed to reduce the stress on wings, including limiting cargo and fuel loads, reducing air speed or maneuvers and adjusting configurations.

"We'll still be able to meet the mission," Schissler said. "Scheduling will be much more challenging."

All of the grounded aircraft are model E Hercules, the same flown by the 36th Airlift Squadron under the 374th Airlift Wing at Yokota.

The 60 restricted aircraft include E models and other variants.

The 374th is the only airlift wing in the Far East and supports all Department of Defense agencies. The wing and the 36th returned late last month from an arduous mission to South Asia in support of tsunami relief. Yokota's C-130 crews logged nearly 2,700 hours of flight and hauled 4.7 million pounds of humanitarian aid and equipment, Staffer said.

On Friday, the New York Times reported that Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper told the Senate Armed Services Committee that some of the oldest C-130s, mostly working in Iraq, are developing cracks in their wings from heavy loads and long hours.

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From Dresden to Baghdad, an evolution

Attack was one of many to target civilians ...

By RON JENSEN

Stars and Stripes

Hundreds of bombers opened their bellies and thousands of bombs tumbled out, screaming earthwards and landing willfully on very medieval German city of Dresden.

The first bombing took place on the night of Feb. 13, 1945, but the attack continued throughout the next day. British bombers flew at night; American aircraft worked the day shift.

The city burned and tens of thousands died, mostly civilians. Dresden burns still. History has been revised, lowering the number of dead from more than 100,000 to less than half that and unveiling the city's military role that had been denied for decades.

The firebombing of Dresden 60 years ago still symbolizes the horror aerial bombing can impose on a civilian population.

"It seemed as if the very air was on fire," one survivor recalled in a memoir.

The very idea of bombing from the air was so horrific it was outlawed even before it existed. At the Hague Conference of 1899, a ban was placed on dropping bombs from balloons or "any other new method."

"They were visionaries that could foresee what might happen," said Peter Murton, a historian at the Imperial War Museum at Duxford, England.

When World War I began in 1914, aviation was a tool for recon-

naissance. The war would be won on the ground, commanders on both sides believed.

The bloody stalemate of the Western Front forced a rethinking. The Germans had built a long-range bomber and in 1918 their attacks on London struck mostly at British morale.

"The (physical) damage was out of proportion with the psychological damage," said Bridget Pollard, who researched strategic bombing for the Duxford museum.

The tide had turned. Aviation was a viable weapon. For the rest of the war, more attention and money were directed at developing air forces capable of dropping bombs.

In the 1930s, both Germany and England developed bombers for the coming conflict. When fighting began, each was capable of bombing the other. The crude method of dropping heavy explosives from above.

"A hit was sort of getting within a mile," Pollard said.

Technology did improve. Navigational equipment and bomb-sights made it easier to find a specific target on the ground below.

But bombs still fell from aircraft and were ultimately guided by gravity and air currents. Civilian deaths and damage to nonmilitary sights were tremendous.

That wasn't accidental. Leaders from both sides believed bombing civilians would break their spirit and force an end to the war. Civilian deaths from bombing contin-



A file photo of the city of Dresden, Germany, shows the ruined city from the tower of the city hall. According to German officials, 35,000 people were killed during U.S.-British air attacks on Feb. 13 and 14, 1945.

ued during wars in both Korea and Vietnam. The bombers themselves had been improved. Targeting was more exact thanks to aerial photography.

But bombs were still "dumb iron," said Tom Hughes, professor of military history at the School of Advanced Air and Space Studies at Maxwell AFB, Ala.

"Through the 1940s and 50s and most of the 1960s, bombing was pretty much the same as it was in World War II," Hughes said in a telephone interview.

An enduring gauge of the Vietnam War is that of bombs raining from the undersides of B-52s over

North Vietnam. North Vietnamese interviewed after the war said they trembled in fear at the mere sound of the bombers.

By the end of the war, precision-guided munitions were part of the arsenal. With them came a new philosophy. Killing women and children on the ground, destroying schools and hospitals, was no longer a necessary part of war.

For America, the first large use of precision-guided munitions was in the 1991 Persian Gulf War. Even then, however, only 10 percent to 12 percent of bombs were "smart" ones.

"The American people don't

get a sense of that," Hughes said, because so many cockpit videos of smart bombs played on television screens.

Now, he said, the percentage has flipped. Nearly all munitions dropped from aircraft in the battles for Afghanistan and Iraq have been precision-guided.

Civilian casualties still occur. The organization Iraq Body Count estimates between 16,000 and 18,000 civilians have been killed since America invaded Iraq in March 2003.

In Iraq, the Air Force is continually upgrading its ability to strike targets with enough precision to minimize or eliminate unintended damage and deaths.

"We don't carpet bomb anymore," said Col. Bob Chapman, director of operations for Central Air Force Command at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.

With aerial bombing a central part of America's battle strategy — the war in Kosovo was fought exclusively from the air — the technology makes a repeat of Dresden nearly impossible.

Yet a comment about bombing raids from an Iraqi man reported in news accounts — "Nowhere felt safe and there was nothing we could do," could have come from London or Tokyo or Hanoi in wars past.

Furthermore, Dresden was not unique for World War II. Scores of German and Japanese cities endured the wrath of Allied bombs.

Pollard said, "Dresden is a raid at the end of the war where everything goes right. They find the target. They hit the target. The target burns."

That, she said, is what they'd been trying to tell us all along.

E-mail Ron Jensen at: jensenr@mail.strips.com

... But in Iraq, smart bombs aim to reduce 'collateral damage'

One truth in Iraq, said Col. Bob Chapman, is the minds and hearts of Iraqis won't be won if America drops bombs on them.

That's why, the director of operations for U.S. Central Air Force Command said, great care is taken in the country before a bomb is dropped.

"We take collateral damage mitigation very seriously," he said in a telephone interview from Shaw Air Force Base, S.C. "Almost every weapon we drop is a precision munition now."

Every day in Iraq, Air Force planes drop bombs, providing close air support for troops on the ground or going after "high value targets," such as leaders of the stubborn insurgency.

But in both cases, Air Force officers said, they try to limit or eliminate damage to noncombatants.

"We do a four-tier analysis on every target we go after," said Maj. Jeff Reiman, an intelligence targeter at Shaw.

First, planners draw a circle

around a target, he said, to determine if any or how many buildings might be hit beyond the main target.

Next, use of a weapon is considered, he said. Perhaps a bomb will be used that will bore into the earth below the building before it explodes, "letting the earth do some work for us" by absorbing the blast, Reiman said.

The third tier examines the effects of the weapon beyond the target and will determine the angle used by the attacking aircraft to deliver the weapon.

The final look is an estimate of how many people beyond the target likely will be killed in the attack.

"I have to tell you, it's a very conservative estimate that we use," Reiman said. "It goes to worst case."

The decision to bomb may be sent up the chain of command, going as high as the secretary of defense, if the estimated casualty figure is high.



A statue of Saddam Hussein remains standing April 12, 2003, amidst the rubble of the Iraqi Air Force headquarters that was destroyed by U.S. bombings.

For a close air support mission, the same analysis is used, but the determining factor may be different.

"We're going to deliver fire and protect American lives when we need it," Reiman said.

The Air Force continues to upgrade its technology in the region to better choose its targets. The unmanned aircraft called Predator can trace circles above a target and deliver video to commanders who make bombing decisions.

Recently, Chapman said, the Air Force began using the GBU-38, a 500-pound bomb guided by satellite. It is dropped almost perpendicular to the earth, he said.

"We're able to contain the blast within that building," he said.

More recently, said Lt. Col. Greg Harbin, CENTAF deputy director of operations, air controllers traveling with the Army received ROVER — a remotely-operated video enhanced receiver. This allows a controller to see on a laptop computer what a pilot sees on the cockpit video screen.

He said this helps in urban environments where buildings all look the same and the pilot may not recognize the target.

To the guy on the ground, it may look like three buildings," he said. But the pilot may see only one building with a common roof.

With ROVER, the ground controller will know if the pilot has identified the wrong target.

"I would have loved to have this on our trip to Baghdad the first time," said Col. Byron Riss, CENTAF chief of combat operations at the Combined Air Operations Center, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, who accompanied the 3rd Infantry Division on the initial invasion of Iraq.

Back then, he said, controllers were able to call in airstrikes only on what they could see from the ground.

The officers said more efforts to improve targeting would be made as the insurgency continues along with America's attempt to fight it.

"We're not resting on our laurels," said Chapman.

— Ron Jensen

Protecting U.S. troops, convoys with armor

New rules for upgrading vehicles take effect Tuesday

BY JOHN HENDREN

Los Angeles Times

CAMP NAVISTAR, Kuwait — The green trucks of the Iraqi Express line up daily along the Iraqi-Kuwait border in a pre-dawn ritual for a trip that lasts four days and covers 1,200 miles.

Behind a makeshift steel plate on the door of a cargo truck, Sgt. Cesar Feliciano is nervous. His pregnant wife in Puerto Rico doesn't know he's riding a bomb magnet across Iraq on this day for the first time, or that he'll keep doing so every week this year.

"I don't tell my family about it, going on convoys, I tell them I'm going to be in a safe place, and they don't worry about it," he says. "I hope nothing happens."

But on at least one out of every five trips, drivers say, something does happen. Eighteen months after insurgents first began to line Iraqi roads with bombs, U.S. military vehicles continue to brave Iraq's most perilous roadways without armor.

Fresh American troops cross the dusty berm from Kuwait into Iraq in the largest troop rotation in U.S. military history. Starting Tuesday, no American military vehicle will travel outside without some sort of

armor, military officials said last week. This is the result of a concentrated push after a National Guardsman confronted Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in December and complained that soldiers were not being provided for makeshift "hillybilly armor" to protect themselves in Iraq.

Nevertheless, efforts to further protect American soldiers, much of it undertaken on an ad hoc basis at military bases in Kuwait, are still not finished. After Tuesday, about one in every four of the 25,300 military vehicles outside American bases will still have only the makeshift steel plates known to soldiers as "Mad Max" or hillybilly armor.

About 6,000 unarmored vehicles will be confined to the walled base camps.

The makeshift armor has saved many lives and mechanics said some survivors have described their accounts in writing. Military leaders concede the improvised armor is only a temporary measure until more factory-made armor kits can be distributed.

Trucks with the temporary armor will still be used in Iraq until June, when the armor is to be upgraded, military officials told the Senate Armed Services Committee last week. Insurgents began



PHOTOS BY STEVE LEWIS/Star and Stripes

Above: Staff Sgt. Austin "John-o" Williams of the 518th Gun Truck Company, left, consults with the commander of the Iraqi Express, Staff Sgt. Dan Miller, during a stop in southern Iraq on Nov. 1. Right: Staff Sgt. David Cardoso secures a load of tires on the back of his flatbed Heavy Equipment Truck at Camp Scania in central Iraq on Nov. 1. Cardoso is a truck driver for the 148th Transportation Company of the Ohio National Guard, one of several units running the daily Iraqi Express.

using roadside bombs — or improvised explosive devices, known as IEDs — in the summer of 2003. As vehicles have been armored, insurgents have upped the ante, using larger, deadlier bombs.

Protection is getting better, commanders say, but there are few sure things in Iraq when it comes to safety.

"I would say the next rotation of troops will be better protected

than this rotation of troops, which is better protected than the previous rotation of troops," said Brig. Gen. Michael Milano, of the Coalition Forces Land Component Command. "There are no guarantees. But we're doing — and we're obligated to do — everything we can to provide as much protection as we can to anybody operating in Iraq."

As long as American troops remain in Iraq, the Iraqi Express

and smaller convoys throughout the country will continue making their trips, U.S. commanders say. For truckers such as Sgt. Eric Lee, that means not knowing how much time this year they will spend in a truck with rust-colored plates welded onto its doors.

"This is makeshift armor," said the 25-year-old Minneapolis native on his first day. "But it's better than no armor."

EDIS: Early detection of problems create better chances to help children

EDIS, FROM PAGE 3

"If they have any suspicion that something doesn't seem right," they should call EDIS or their DODDS school, depending on the child's age, he said. "We get families that think someone's wrong with their child and there's nothing wrong with their child. It's better safe than sorry."

EDIS staff members specialize

in early childhood education, social work, nursing, and fine and gross motor and speech and language development.

The organization recently lost its clinical psychologist, who will not be replaced, Dumas said. The organization has a number of how many kids require the service," he said.

EDIS programs at larger bases in Japan, however, employ spe-

cialists such as a developmental pediatrician, ear, nose and throat doctor, and a child psychiatrist; they visit Misawa about four times a year, Dumas said.

DODDS and EDIS collaborate when a child with special-education needs is of preschool or school age, usually 3 or 4 and older. Cummings and Sollars elementary schools have Preschool Services for Children with Disabil-

ities classrooms that serve about 30 3- to 5-year-olds between the two locations. Some children have hearing or vision delays, autism, mild cerebral palsy or learning or other developmental delays or disabilities, said Cummings' PSCD teacher Louise Warner.

"If we have a question about a child's motor skills, for example, we get the parents' permission to have EDIS come in," Warner

said. "EDIS comes to the classroom to provide these services."

Many developmentally-behind children, through early intervention, catch up by kindergarten; others continue to receive special-education services through DODDS and EDIS.


The earlier a developmental delay or disability is caught, the better chance a child has of catching up to his or her peers, said Dumas and Warner.

Wait until a child enters school, and his "skills may be so far behind or he's developed bad habits and is compensating in ways that are inappropriate," Warner said. "They end up having additional problems within the school setting."

While signs of a developmental problem vary by age, a good rule of thumb, when a child is young, is "to look at other children, see what they're doing. With walking, running, speaking, how they play, eye contact, just comparing them with other kids," Dumas said.

Parents with concerns or questions about the developmental progress of their infants or toddlers may call EDIS at DSN 226-9039 or visit Building 94 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Parents of preschoolers or school-age children should contact their DODDS school.

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<p>Yokota Christian Academy M-F</p> <p>Sunday</p> <p>Early Service 08:30</p> <p>Sunday School 10:00</p> <p>Morning Service 11:00</p> <p>Evening Service 1:00</p> <p>Monday</p> <p>Faith Bible Institute 18:30</p> <p>Tuesday</p> <p>Soul Winning & Visitation 18:30</p> <p>Wednesday</p> <p>Evening Service & Prayer Mtg 19:00</p> <p>Patch & Pee Wee Clubs 19:00</p>	<p>Friday</p> <p>Awards Club 19:00</p> <p>Monthly</p> <p>Men's Prayer Breakfast 1st Sat</p> <p>Ladies Meeting 1st Sat</p>
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16

At Fussa Gate: Left on 16 to light. Turn right. Take next left. Church on left.

New Army badge

The New York Times reported Sunday that Army troops assigned to combat units that come under fire will be eligible for a new badge that recognizes their efforts separately from ribbons for all who serve in Iraq or Afghanistan or who support the Pentagon's antiterrorism missions based in the United States, a senior Army official said Saturday.

The Times said the new award, called the Close Combat Badge, was unveiled to a private conference of four-star generals convened in Washington this weekend by Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, the Army chief of staff, the senior official said.

The Times said the badge was requested by field commanders and reflects their desire to distinguish the efforts of soldiers whose units are "organized to routinely conduct close combat operations and engage in direct combat," the Army official said.

3 U.S. soldiers killed

TIKRIT, Iraq — Three U.S. soldiers were killed when their military vehicle rolled into a canal early Sunday, the military said.

The accident occurred when the men from Task Force Danger were on a combat patrol early Sunday morning near the town of Balad, 50 miles north of Baghdad, the U.S. command said in a statement.

Five soldiers attempting to rescue the men were evacuated for medical treatment, but were all expected to return to duty, the military said.

An investigation was launched into the accident, the military said.

3 Iraqis gunned down

BAGHDAD — Gunmen ambushed a car carrying an Iraqi general in a Shiite neighborhood of Baghdad on Sunday, killing him and two companions, police officials said.

Brig. Gen. Jadaan Farhan and his companions were traveling in a white four-wheel drive vehicle through Baghdad's Kazimiyah district when the attack occurred, an Iraqi police officer said on condition of anonymity.

They were killed after the car, a Toyota, was hit by emergency services to recover, witnesses said.

A claim of responsibility for the attack in the name of al-Qaida quickly surfaced on the Internet, that often posts statements by Islamic militants.

4 dead in Mosul attack

BAGHDAD — Insurgents attacked a U.S. convoy and a government building near the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, leaving at least four people dead, hospital workers said. Two Iraqi National Guard troops were also killed while trying to defuse a roadside bomb.

Insurgents fired on the convoy in Al-Qahira district, just north of Mosul, sparking a battle that left at least four people dead and two wounded, doctors at the Al-Jumhuri Teaching Hospital said.

Insurgents also fired a rocket at the governor's building in Mosul, killing one woman and one man, as well as injuring four others, officials at the hospital said.

From staff and wire reports



Farid Ayar, left, spokesman for the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq, and Adel al-Lami, the commission's chief of electoral office, give the final election results Sunday in Baghdad.

Iraqi election results released

Candidates from majority Shiites win most votes, followed by Kurds

BY JASON KEYSER
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's majority Shiite Muslims won nearly half the votes in the nation's landmark Jan. 30 election, giving the long-oppressed group significant power but not enough to form a government on its own.

The Shiites likely will have to form a coalition in the 275-member National Assembly with the other top vote-getters — the Kurds and Prime Minister Ayad Allawi's list — to push through their agenda and select a president and prime minister. The president and two vice presidents must be elected by a two-thirds majority.

"We have a responsibility now to work together for the sake of the people. They have made this magnificent gesture and we should all take it seriously and make it work," said Iraqi Vice President Ibrahim al-Jaafari, a leading Shiite and possible candidate for prime minister.

Mouwafak al-Rubaie, the national security adviser and a Shiite politician, said the Iraqi government will not be formed from one sect or one ethnic group.

"Iraq and its new government can't be built by one faction or shade and it is not possible that only two or three sectors participate in this government," al-Rubaie told Al-Arabiya.

"There is one principal we agreed upon, which is the principle of participation and not only agreement, but real participation from all sects."

Barham Saleh, Iraq's deputy prime minister and a top Kurd politician, also called for an inclusive transitional government.

"We cannot afford another era of conflict and turbulence," he said on CNN's Late Edition. "It's time Iraqis enjoyed stability and democracy, and that's what requires bringing all key players and all key communities on board, and we will do so."

Minority Sunni groups, which largely boycotted voting booths

and form the core of the insurgency, rejected the election — raising the prospect of continued violence as Iraqis try to rebuild their country.

In an interview with Al-Jazeera television, Mohammed Bashar of the anti-American Association of Muslim Scholars said the fact that there were no international or U.N. monitors in Iraq made him question the figures.

"Those who boycotted the elections are more than those who took part in it," he said. "Boycotting the election does not mean that the boycotters will renounce his rights."

The Shiite-dominated ticket received more than 4 million votes, or about 48 percent of the total cast, Iraqi election officials said. A Kurdish alliance was second with 2.175 million votes, or 26 percent, and Allawi's list was third with about 1.168 million, or 13.8 percent.

Of Iraq's 14 million eligible voters, 8,550,571 cast ballots for 111 candidate lists, the commission said. About 94,305 were declared

invalid. The Iraqi Electoral Commission said the turnout was 58 percent.

Assuming the total vote tally doesn't change, a party will need 30,750 votes to win a seat in the National Assembly. Only 12 parties have made the threshold, under the provisional results.

Once the results are certified, a complex mathematical formula will determine how many seats each of those parties will receive.

If there are no changes to the vote totals, and a small change could dramatically shift the results, the United Iraqi Alliance will have 140 seats in the National Assembly, just a slight majority. The Kurdistan Alliance will hold 75 seats and the Iraqi list will hold 40.

The remaining nine parties will split up 20 seats.

The provisional figures indicate that many Sunni Arabs stayed at home on election day, with only 13,895 votes — or 2 percent — cast in the National Assembly race in Anbar province, a stronghold of the Sunni Muslim insurgency.

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malaria drug meltdown

Servicemembers believe antibiotic they took in Iraq caused violence, depression

BY SETH HETTENA
The Associated Press

ASAN DIEGO
s a volunteer firefighter, Georg-Andreas Pogany had seen disfigured bodies pulled from wrecked cars. But something very different happened when the Army interrogator saw the mangled remains of an Iraqi soldier.

He became panicked, disoriented and that night reached for both his loaded pistol and rifle as he thought he saw the enemy bursting into his room. Pogany asked his superiors for help. The Army packed him home to face charges of cowardice — the first such case since Vietnam.

None of it made sense to Pogany until he learned more about the white pills the Army gave him each week to prevent malaria.

The drug's manufacturer warned of rare but severe side effects including paranoia and hallucinations. It became his defense: The pills made him snap. The Army dropped all charges, a spokesman later saying that Pogany

"may have a medical problem that requires care and treatment." Pogany is among the current or former troops sent to Iraq who claim that Lariam, the commercial name for the anti-malaria drug mefloquine, provoked disturbing and dangerous behavior. The families of some troops blame the drug for the suicides of their loved ones. Though the evidence is largely anecdotal, their stories have raised alarm in Congress, and the Pentagon has stopped giving out a pill it probably never needed to give to tens of thousands of troops in Iraq in the first place.

"What we are doing giving drugs that cause hallucinations, confusion, psychotic behavior to people that carry weapons and hold secret clearances?" asked Pogany, 33, who is now seeking a medical discharge.

A blurry issue

The U.S. military, which developed the drug after the Vietnam War, maintains that Lariam is safe and effective, though officials have expressed some concern and the military tells its pilots not to take Lariam.

In written guidance on the drug

last year, the military urged commanders to send for a medical evaluation anyone who showed behavioral changes after taking the drug, "especially ... if they carry a weapon" — a description of nearly all U.S. troops in Iraq.

Lariam is among the drugs recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for treatment and prevention of malaria, which kills about 1 million people worldwide each year.

The drug's New Jersey-based manufacturer, Roche Pharmaceuticals, points out that more than 30 million people worldwide have used Lariam over 20 years.

"There is no reliable scientific evidence that Lariam is associated with violent acts or criminal conduct," Roche spokesman Terence Hurley wrote in an e-mailed response to questions.

Further blurring the issue, the side effects associated with Lariam closely mirror symptoms of stress disorders related to combat, making diagnosis difficult.

Still, the pill has dedicated critics who believe it's causing problems that are only beginning to be understood. A review by the Department of

Veterans' Affairs found 34 articles in medical journals about patients who took Lariam and became paranoid, psychotic or behaved strangely.

Faith in the drug is mixed within the civilian medical community. Two doctors questioned said they routinely prescribe it to travelers and believe troop complaints are overblown. Another criticized the military's use of a drug with a known history of psychiatric complications.

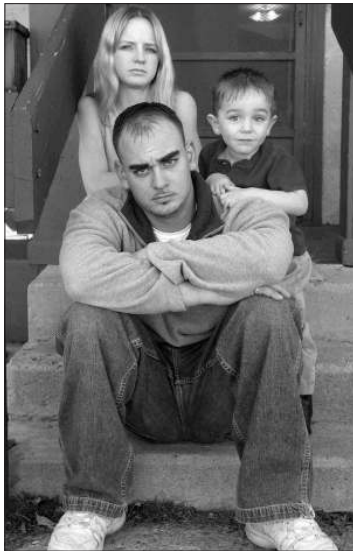
Dr. G. Richard Olds, professor and chairman of medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin, is among Lariam's critics.

"There's a strong recommendation not to use Lariam for those who depend on the motor skills," he said. "Do you call firing an M-16 a fine motor skill? I do."

Concerns emerge

The Pentagon's records show the number of Lariam prescriptions issued to active-duty personnel nearly doubled from 18,704 in 2002 to 36,451 the next year, said Lt. Col. Stephen Phillips, a program director for deployment medicine. Since prescriptions issued at remote locations aren't counted, actual numbers may be higher.

Shortly after the March 2003 in-



U.S. Army veteran Donald Dills, left, shown outside his Pueblo, Colo., home, says he grew depressed after taking the anti-malaria drug Lariam for seven months while stationed in Iraq. Dills said he "went crazy" on a family visit to Mississippi last year and wound up jailed for robbery. Dills' wife, Elicia, and son, Robert, 3, are seated behind him.

vasion, military doctors determined another malaria drug would do the job with fewer side effects. Around the same time, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced that doctors should give patients revised information, underscoring that some Lariam users experience severe anxiety, paranoia, hallucinations, depression and think about killing themselves.

Troops were supposed to receive these kinds of warnings, but several current and former soldiers interviewed for this story said they did not — and that they continued taking the drug in Iraq as recently as 2004.

Concerns about those taking the drug weren't new. Lariam came up as a possible explanation after Fort Bragg, N.C., soldiers killed their wives over 43 days in 2002. An Army probe ruled out Lariam, which was only prescribed to two of the soldiers.

Last year, the assistant defense secretary for health affairs ordered a review of the drug's use based on troop concerns. In a letter last month, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., pressed Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to release results of the Pentagon's investigation. Feinstein has said there is enough evidence in the warnings from Lariam's maker "to make the causal link between the drug and many of the serious adverse events experienced by service members."

Military officials now concede Lariam wasn't needed in Iraq — and not just because, according to the Pentagon, no malaria infections have been reported among U.S. forces there.

New war, new drug

Troops sent to Kuwait in 1991 for Operation Desert Storm were given another anti-malaria, chlo-

roquine. Before the Iraq invasion, the Armed Forces Medical Intelligence Center in Fort Detrick, Md. was concerned that a deadly malaria strain in the region might have become resistant to chloroquine.

In a series of reports before the invasion, the intelligence center extrapolated that — without bug spray, mosquito nets or other preventive measures — about 1 in 2,000 troops could pick up a deadly chloroquine-resistant malaria strain, according to a spokesman, Army Lt. Col. Michael Birmingham.

In March 2003, U.S. Central Command recommended the use of Lariam or another drug, doxycycline, in high-risk areas in Iraq.

The idea was "to err on the side of caution," Phillips said.

Some commanders chose Lariam because it could be taken once a week rather than daily like doxycycline, whose main side effects included sensitivity to sunlight.

By July 2003, the military had determined the chloroquine-resistant strain wasn't in Iraq. Chloroquine then became the drug of choice.

"That's the saddest part," said Laura Howell, a widow with two children after her husband killed himself in Colorado Springs, Colo. "There was never a need."

Connecting the dots

Howell blames Lariam for what happened a few weeks after her husband, a veteran Green Beret, returned home. In March 2004, Chief Warrant Officer William Howell went from "normal to murderous" in a matter of days, killed himself in Colorado Springs, Colo., and ended his life in his front yard with a bullet to the head.

Critics of the drug in organizations such as Lariam Action USA and the National Gulf War Resources Center believe Lariam is connected to the surge in military suicides in 2003, when 23 people deployed to Iraq and Kuwait took their lives. The suicide rate dropped after Lariam's use was halted in Iraq.

Former Army Spc. Donald Dills and his wife say he grew anxious, paranoid and depressed after taking Lariam for seven months in Iraq. Dills, 22, says he "went crazy" on a family visit to Mississippi last year and wound up jailed for robbery. When Dills' wife called her husband's first sergeant about the arrest, he told her: Look into Lariam.

Dills, who like Pogany and Howell was based at Fort Carson, was deployed to Iraq. The military said after he wound up in a psychiatric ward for problems he and his wife contend are linked to Lariam.

The bottom line is they know what's going on," said Elicia Dills, 25, of Pueblo, Colo. "They just don't know how to deal with the can of worms they opened."

Military officials now concede Lariam wasn't needed in Iraq — and not just because, according to the Pentagon, no malaria infections have been reported among U.S. forces there.

VFW looks to change image by recruiting younger vets

BY SHELLA BYRD
The Associated Press

FLORENCE, Miss. — Mike Brown was a 22-year-old Army corporal returning from war, and one of the few people on hand to greet his bus was a stranger with an invitation to join the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The year was 1952 and Brown's tour of duty in Korea had just ended. More than a half-century later, Brown is still active in the VFW, but worried about the most pressing problem facing the organization: the difficulty attracting younger veterans.

"Somebody's going to have to replace us," says the now-75-year-old Brown, a member of the VFW in this town just outside Mississippi's capital.

The 90 members of his post, who meet monthly and volunteer at fire departments, Little League games and the Boy Scouts, are almost all veterans of World War II and Vietnam. More than half are over age 60 and only a handful fought in recent conflicts such as the Gulf War.

With World War II vets dying at the rate of 1,000 a day and most younger veterans seeking to distance themselves from their military years, the VFW has found it increasingly difficult to replenish its rolls. Membership nationwide has declined steadily over the past decade and currently stands at about 1 million.

Most members concede that part of the problem is the public perception of the VFW as a mere social club, where veterans share war stories between swigs of beer and games of pool.

But they say people are unaware of the millions of service hours donated by VFW members, the outreach efforts to families of soldiers now deployed and the lobbying for veterans benefits on Capitol Hill.

"People question the relevancy of the organization," said national VFW spokesman Jerry Newberry. "I think that perception is starting to turn around. Wal-Mart, Pfizer — these people don't give million dollar checks to organizations that don't do anything."

Among the VFW's current concerns is backing a Pentagon proposal to increase the benefit paid to families of war dead from \$12,420 to \$100,000.

"I try to tell younger folks, if you can't be active, at least you should be a member of an organization who supports the entitlements that you earn," said Donnie Verrucci, commander of 186-member VFW

post in Natchez, Miss.

The VFW's future now lies with younger veterans of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and military operations in Bosnia, Somalia, Panama or Kosovo. Unlike its larger cousin, the American Legion, with a similarly declining membership of 2.7 million, the VFW is open only to those who served in conflicts on foreign soil.

Some VFW posts are thriving. Others are not. The reasons vary.

Posts near military installations usually have strong membership, but some suffer from apathy and poor recruiting efforts.

VFW spokesman Newberry said the national office in Kansas City encourages local posts to adapt to the new age, by building Web sites and promoting themselves as an integral part of the community.

National Guard Maj. Eric Croke of the 223rd Engineering Battalion in West Point, Miss., returned from Iraq in March 2004.

The 43-year-old says he's involved in community service through his church, where he makes repairs to the homes of the needy.

Croke's not interested in the VFW.

"I don't see any value in it. In my mind, it's sort of an old-man organization," Croke said.

In the same battalion is National Guard Sgt. Beau Plunk, 42, who signed up with VFW Post 4640 in Clarksville, Miss., when he returned last March.

"When I first became a member, I was scared to death. There wasn't anyone there but World War II and Vietnam veterans," Plunk said.

Plunk believes membership will increase as more National Guard soldiers return from Iraq. More than 4,100 Mississippi National Guardsmen are now mobilized.

Post 3 in Altoona, Pa., has existed more than 105 years.

Commander Edward Manna said his post has 396 members, but only about 35 are active, and about 85 percent of the membership is over 60.

"We are having the same problems the other posts are having. We're dwindling down. Years ago, our post membership was around 1,500," Manna said.

Manna said his post aggressively recruits younger vets by sending application forms to Afghanistan and Iraq. He says the post has a lot to offer — a veterans' home for children and a treatment center for veterans suffering from alcohol or drug addiction.

"As far as recruiting, all we can do is open our arms and homes to the veterans," Manna said.



Leroy Girard, a World War II veteran and a member of Veterans of Foreign War Post 5048, looks out the window of their Florence, Miss., post in December. Dwindling memberships and an "old guard" feel to the organization is forcing the VFW to change its image to recruit younger vets.



Frans Look plays taps during a funeral at Bath National Cemetery in Bath, N.Y., in January. With an average of 1,800 U.S. veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam now dying every day, along with a steady stream of casualties in Iraq, live renditions of taps at military funerals have become a relative rarity.

N.Y. hills to resound with sound of taps

Brass musicians will form 41-mile chain to draw attention to the need for buglers

BY BEN DOBBIN
The Associated Press

BATH, N.Y. — Once the pastor intoned "May he rest in peace," a Marine Corps honor guard lifted the flag off Thomas Wagner's casket and held it right. Right on cue, from an adjacent hilltop at Bath National Cemetery, there rose a stirring bugle call.

Played by an American Legion Post chaplain, the Civil War dirge known as taps endures as a final salute to fallen veterans — most of whom, like Wagner, were warriors long ago.

"For the families of those who served, it adds a beautiful, somber tone, a feeling of finality," said Frans Look, 80, a World War II paratrooper who performs at a dozen funerals each year. "A recording doesn't carry the same emotional weight."

With an average of 1,800 U.S. veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam now dying every day, along with a steady stream of casualties in Iraq, live renditions of taps at military funerals have become a relative rarity.

The 24-note melody is usually delivered digitally — via a computer disc player placed near the grave or, increasingly since 2003, a Pentagon-approved, push-button "ceremonial player" that anyone can mimic playing by raising it to their lips.

Armed forces have about 500 musicians who perform taps, many of whom have been dispatched to the Middle East. A few thousand civilian volunteers in the Bugles Across America group also fill in wherever they can. But there aren't nearly enough buglers to go around.

To draw spotlight on the scarcity, a panoramic tableau is being prepared: Stretched across 41 miles between two national cemeteries in rural western New York, hundreds of horn players will play a cascading arrangement of taps on Armed Forces Day on May 21.

"Once the first bugler plays the first three notes, the second bugler will start and then, three notes later, the next," said Les Hampton, a Corning Inc. engineer who served on a Navy destroyer in the Vietnam War. "If we have a bugler every 10th of a mile, or 410 buglers, the rate of sound traveling through the valley would be 60 miles an hour and last 41 minutes."

The Echo Taps project, aimed at enlisting more volunteer buglers, honoring military service and raising the profile of America's 120 national cemeteries, is open to all brass horns, from trombones to melophones to flugel-horns. One mile-long span in Coopers Plains will be devoted to tubas — in memory of a tuba-loving soldier from the village who died young.

The song will start up at Woodlawn National Cemetery in Elmira and bind a string of small towns from Painted Post and Campbell to Savona and Bath. Organizers hope to get a mention in the Guinness Book of World Records for the longest line of brass instruments playing the same tune.

"Each bugler has to be within audible distance," Hampton said. "Where it's hilly, where we have a lot of bends in the roads and when we go through Corners, where there's a lot of traffic, we're going to have buglers closer."

Already, more than 500 musicians, some from as far off as California, have said they'll play.

"If we get 2,000, we will have them all in there," Hampton said.

The seed for the symphony was planted two years ago when two buglers happened to show up for the same funeral. Hampton and the honor guard commander, Gerry McDonald, came away doubly impressed by the duet and began wondering what a multi-instrumental tribute would sound like.

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Officials: U.S. surveys Iran via drones

BY DAFNA LINZER

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration has been flying surveillance drones over Iran for nearly a year to seek evidence of nuclear weapons programs and to detect weaknesses in air defenses, according to three U.S. officials with detailed knowledge of the secret effort.

The small, pilotless planes, penetrating Iranian airspace from U.S. military facilities in Iraq, use radar, video, still photography and air filters designed to pick up traces of nuclear activity to gather information that is not accessible to satellites, the officials said.

The aerial espionage is standard in military preparations for an eventual air attack and also is employed as a tool for intimidation.

The Iranian government, using Swiss channels in the absence of diplomatic relations with Washington, formally protested the illegal incursions, according to Iranian, European and U.S. officials, all speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

A U.S. official acknowledged that drones were being used but said the Iranian campaign focused on aircraft overflights by the Pentagon.

The United States, the official said, replied with a denial that manned U.S. aircraft had crossed Iran's borders. The

drones were first spotted by dozens of Iranians and set off a national newspaper frenzy in late December over whether the country was being visited by UFOs.

The maneuvers have been conducted as the Bush administration sharpens its anti-Iran rhetoric and the U.S. intelligence community searches for information to support President Bush's claim that Tehran is trying to build nuclear weapons.

Bush's senior advisors, including Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Secre-

The maneuvers have been conducted as the Bush administration sharpens its anti-Iran rhetoric and the U.S. intelligence community searches for information to support President Bush's claim that Tehran is trying to build nuclear weapons.

tary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, said last week that a U.S. attack on Iran is not imminent but that the option remains available.

The Washington Post reported Saturday that the intelligence community is conducting a broad review of its Iran assessments, including a new look at information about the country's nuclear program, according to administration officials and congressional sources.

U.S. officials confirmed that the drones were deployed along Iran's northern and western borders, first in April 2004, and again in December and January. A former U.S. official with direct knowledge of earlier phases of the operation said the U.S. intelligence community began using Iraq as a

base to spy on Iran shortly after taking Baghdad in early April 2003. Drones have been flown over Iran since then, the former official said, but the missions became more frequent last year.

The last drone sightings were in mid-January, around the same time that Iran's National Security Council met in Tehran to discuss them, according to an Iranian official. "It was clear to our air force that the entire intention here was to get us to turn on our radar," the official said.

That tactic, designed to provide intelligence information to what the military calls an "enemy order of battle," was used by the U.S. military in the Korean and Vietnam wars, against the Soviets, the Chinese and in both Iraq wars.

"By coaxing the Iranians to turn on their defense systems, including the frequencies they are operating on, the range of their radar and, of course, where their weaknesses lie," said Thomas Keane, a retired U.S. Air Force colonel and executive director of the Foreign Policy Institute at Johns Hopkins University.

But it did not work. "The United States must have forgotten that they trained half our guys," the Iranian official said.

Leaving the radar off deprives U.S. forces of vital information about the country's air defense system, but it also makes it harder for Iran to tell if an attack is underway.

that could be used to develop a nuclear weapon. Iran has suspended enrichment during the talks but has declined to abandon the program, insisting that it is only for peaceful energy production.

Fischer restated a call from German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder on Saturday for the United States to offer incentives to the Iranians for cooperating. The Europeans are proposing Iran get financial and technical support and trade talks in exchange for nuclear guarantees.

Tehran rejects Europe's demands

The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi rejected a European demand to stop building a heavy water nuclear reactor in return for a light-water reactor, hardening Iran's position on a key part of its nuclear facilities that critics claim is part of a weapons program.

Iran had indicated in the past that its suspension of uranium enrichment activities won't include construction of a heavy water reactor but Sunday's announcement is its clearest statement so far of its nuclear program plans. The statement indicates the unresolved differences between Iranian and European negotiators, who continue their talks on Iran's nuclear program as the United States escalates its criticism of Iran.

Asefi said Iran plans to become a major nuclear fuel supplier in 15 years, part of a program that Iran says is for peaceful domestic energy purposes but Washington says is aimed at producing an atomic bomb.

Asefi rejected a proposal by European negotiators to stop building a 40-megawatt heavy water nuclear reactor near Arak, in central Iran, in return for a light-water reactor. Iran says it has gone a long way in developing the Arak facility.

"We welcome the European offer... but this won't replace the heavy water research reactor at all. That [heavy water] project will continue. We will pursue that," he said.

The plants in question can be used to enrich uranium, a critical part in nuclear programs. Uranium enriched to low grades is used for fuel in nuclear reactors, but further enrichment makes it suitable for atomic bombs.

Germany urges U.S. to engage in anti-nuclear talks

BY PAUL AMES

The Associated Press

MUNICH, Germany — German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer on Sunday called for the United States to play a more active role in European-led diplomatic efforts to ensure Iran does not develop nuclear weapons.

"If the United States were to engage positively, and I'm aware of how difficult that is, it would substantially strengthen the European drive," Fischer told a security conference.

He gave a cautious response to a U.S.

drive for the Europeans to threaten Iran with U.N. sanctions if it fails to give viable guarantees that its nuclear program is peaceful.

"If the whole process collapsed then we would have to go to the U.N. Security Council," Fischer said. However, he suggested sanctions could strengthen headline elements in the Iranian regime and weaken democrats.

Germany, with France and Britain, is leading European efforts to persuade Iran to drop uranium enrichment and other activi-

China pledges to revive six-way talks with N. Korea

BY SOO-JEONG LEE

The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — China has pledged to try reviving talks aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear programs following the isolated, Stalinist state's declaration that it has atomic weapons and is boycotting disarmament negotiations.

The United States and other countries involved in the six-party talks have urged China to use its influence over North Korea.

Beijing is Pyongyang's last major ally and a key supplier of food and energy to the impoverished dictatorship.

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing told Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice that Beijing firmly supports a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula, the Chinese government said Sunday.

Li told Rice by phone Saturday night that "China will stay in touch with all relevant parties... so that the six-party talks could be resumed as soon as possible," the Foreign Ministry said.

The discussions also involve South Korea, Russia and Japan.

South Korea's foreign minister also said he had discussed with U.S. officials "views that China

should strengthen efforts to persuade the North," South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported.

On Sunday, a North Korean district official in Pyongyang said the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the Korean Peninsula would help six-party talks. Han Song Nam, a deputy chairman for a district in Pyongyang of the country's communist party, said it "would be a practical measure in the withdrawal of the United States' hostile policy," according to Yonhap, which monitored North Korea's Radio Pyongyang.

Washington has been South Korea's key security ally since the 1950-1953 Korean war, and keeps thousands of troops based there and in neighboring Japan.

Delaware's Sen. Joseph Biden, the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, voiced concerns, saying North Korea's move could push Japan to "go nuclear."

"And then China's got a real problem," Biden said in an interview on the U.S. current affairs television program "Fox News Sunday."

Biden also said that, in dealing with the North, the United States "partners" in the North Korea situation "have got to be ready to use sticks, and we have to be willing to use a few more carrots."



A South Korean protester shouts slogans Friday during an anti-North Korean rally in front of the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, South Korea. South Korea urged the United States and its allies to be calm following North Korea's sudden declaration it is a nuclear power.

Quakes rattle tsunami-battered Indonesia

BY CHRISTOPHER BODEEN

The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — Two aftershocks from the massive earthquake that triggered Asia's tsunami rattled the Indonesian province of Aceh early Sunday, as British forces providing relief prepared to leave the disaster zone.

There were no reports of damage from the tremors, which struck about an hour apart and shook buildings in the provincial capital.

One of the underwater quakes had a mag-

nitude of 5.6, according to U.S. Geological Survey, which had no immediate details about the second.

Indonesia has been hit by a series of aftershocks since December's 9.0-magnitude quake, some of which have caused widespread panic. Though Aceh was hardest hit by the disaster, residents went about their business despite Sunday's tremors.

Hundreds of bodies are still being found daily in the province seven weeks after the earthquake and tsunami, Indonesia said Sunday that recovery workers in provin-

cial capital Banda Aceh pulled 546 more bodies from debris left after the earthquake and tsunami, bringing the death toll to 118,767.

Meanwhile, Thailand plans to buy \$2.6 million worth of earthquake-measuring equipment to help warn of disasters like the Asian tsunami, state media reported Sunday.

The government has approved funding for seismological equipment and mobile warning units that will monitor movements of the earth's crust, the Thai News Agency reported. It did not give further details about the equipment.

Phipob Wasunwath, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Mineral Resources, was quoted as saying the project will focus on Thailand's western regions.

The department is mapping Thailand's fault lines and providing information on earthquake risks to people living in threatened areas, the report said.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said Saturday that Thailand would have an initial tsunami early warning system in place by April and a fully operational one working within two years, the state news agency reported earlier.

'The Aviator' takes home best picture at British film awards

BY JILL LAWLESS

The Associated Press Writer

LONDON — "The Aviator" soared Saturday at the British Academy Film Awards, taking four prizes including best film. The abortion drama "Vera Drake" won three, including best director for Mike Leigh.

"The Aviator" — which has 11 nominations for the Feb. 27 Academy Awards — had led the field with 14 nominations. But members of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts scattered the prizes widely.

While "Aviator" director Martin Scorsese and star Leonardo DiCaprio went home empty-handed, the film won a best supporting actress award for Cate Blanchett, as well as prizes for production design and best hair and makeup.

Imelda Staunton won best actress for her wrenching performance as a 1950s Cockney housewife who performs illegal abortions in "Vera Drake." The film also took the costume design prize.

"Mike Leigh is a genius, and working on this film was a dream come true," Staunton said.

Leigh, whose victory drew a big cheer from the hometown audience, said he was "overwhelmed."

"It's an immense privilege to have been allowed the freedom to make as uncompromising a film as I think we've made, and to make such an epic film with such a small budget," he said.

Jamie Foxx was named best actor for his uncanny depiction of singer Ray Charles in "Ray"; the film also won the award for best sound. British star Clive Owen was named best supporting actor for "Closer."

The British awards, known as BAFTAs, have become an essential pre-Oscars stop since they were moved in 2000 from April to a February date, preceding the Academy Awards.

A clutch of Hollywood stars — including DiCaprio, Keanu Reeves, Richard Gere, Goldie Hawn, Kurt Russell and model Claudia Schiffer — braved the rain and cold to walk up the red carpet in London's Leicester Square, watched by hundreds of fans.

The ceremony was hosted for the fifth time by polymath writer/director/performer Stephen Fry, who welcomed guests to "London's little-strewn West End."

"That should be glitter-strewn," he corrected.

The Che Guevara road movie "The Motorcycle Diaries" won two awards — best foreign-language film and best music. Another double winner was fractured romantic comedy "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," which took BAFTA for editing and for Charlie Kaufman's original screenplay.

The prize for best adapted screenplay went to Alexander Payne and Jim Taylor for the wine-tasting comedy "Sideways."



Smoke billows over the skyline of Madrid early Sunday, coming from the fire in the Windsor Building. A spectacular, raging fire engulfed the 32-story office building sending flaming chunks of the facade cascading to the ground and consuming the building like a candle.

Spanish skyscraper fire burns on; building collapse possible

BY ED McCULLOUGH

The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — Madrid's worst fire in memory blazed in one of the city's tallest office buildings Sunday, orange flames bursting through shattered windows more than half a day after it began.

"This is the biggest fire ... this city has ever had," Mayor Alberto Ruiz-Gallardon told reporters at a downtown intersection in front of the blackened hull of twisted wreckage.

The 32-story Windsor Building in Madrid's business and banking district was virtually empty when the first alarm went off on Saturday night at about 11:20 p.m. There were no fatalities, and only one of the seven firefighters who suffered smoke inhalation remained hospitalized Sunday, he said.

The cause of the fire was not immediately determined.

Firefighters were still unable to enter the building on Sunday afternoon because of the heat, smoke and risk of injury. At their peak, temperatures reached 1,472 degrees Fahrenheit, said Javier Sanz, head of Madrid's firefighters.

Several top floors collapsed onto lower ones, and firefighter official Fernando Munilla acknowledged the entire building — which at about 350 feet high is among the 10 tallest in Madrid — could collapse.

"If the partial collapses keep happening, it

would be lying to say it's impossible that the whole building couldn't fall down," he said.

Gallardon said that because of this, neighboring businesses would be barred from opening, possibly until Wednesday, while the operation of three subway lines running under or near the damaged building would be curtailed.

"Technically we can't say that the fire is under control," Gallardon said. "The situation is still critical."

Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero visited the site later Sunday.

"I wanted to thank all those people who have been working since early in the morning, firefighters, police, and all those who have thrown themselves in to help in this catastrophe," Zapatero told reporters.

Thousands of onlookers lined streets barred to traffic.

"It gives you a sense of insecurity" to think that fire could destroy a modern building so fast, said Paola Mendez, an office worker from another part of town. "It's not that old. Was it well built?"

Construction of the shiny gold Windsor Building began in 1973 and was completed in 1979. It became a landmark structure in Madrid's business district. The building was surrounded with scaffolding due to recent repairs, and a huge crane remained perched on its roof.

Associated Press writer Mar Roman contributed to this report.

Pope blesses crowd

VATICAN CITY — Returning to the world's most storied pulpit for the first time since his health crisis, Pope John Paul II addressed a sea of worshippers Sunday from his studio in St. Peter's Square.



John Paul II

and gave with his presence what no cardinal's words could deliver: a strong assurance that he's on the rebound.

An aide delivered most of the message, but at the end the pope's voice rang out clearly — "Happy Sunday to everybody. Thank you."

Castro warns U.S.

HAVANA — Fidel Castro warned Sunday that the life of leftist Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is in danger, and said he would blame the United States if his ally is killed.

Castro's remarks came during a six-hour speech that lasted until 4 a.m. Saturday and closed an international globalization conference in Havana attended by hundreds of economists.

"If Chavez is assassinated, the responsibility will lie entirely with the president of the United States," Castro said, neglecting to provide details, but noting that President Bush has encouraged Chavez's opponents in the past.

Clashes in Philippines

JOLO, Philippines — Government troops, backed by helicopter gunships, bombarded Muslim rebels with artillery and rocket fire Sunday in the mountainous heartland of southern Jolo island after weekend clashes that left more than 60 people dead.

Three soldiers were killed and 14 others were wounded by mortar and grenade attacks in fighting overnight near Pananso and Loooc towns.

The soldiers' bodies were flown out of Jolo by an air force plane, said Brig. Gen. Agustin Demaala.

From the Associated Press

Documents offer clues to travels of 9/11 mastermind

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Newly released documents suggest that the mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks flew out of Portland, Maine, rather than Boston, in order to avoid suspicion that might arise if all 10 hijackers arrived at Logan International Airport at one time.



Atta

Mohamed Atta apparently expected to avoid scrutiny by authorities in Boston by obtaining a boarding pass for American Airlines Flight 11 in Portland, according to a Washington Post report quoting declassified documents from the Sept. 11 commission.

Atta "clenched his jaw and looked as though he was about to get angry" when the airline agent in Portland refused to issue him a boarding pass for the connecting flight in Boston, the report said.

Atta stated that he was assured he would have a "one-step check-in," according to the report. "The agent told [Atta and fellow hijacker Abdulhaziz al Omari] they had better get going if they were to make their flight. He said that Atta looked as if he were about to say something in anger but turned to leave."

A lingering mystery of the attacks on the World Trade Cen-

ter was why Atta and al Omari drove from Boston to Portland and waited before only to board a commuter flight to Boston the next morning.

Atta and four other hijackers boarded Flight 11 on one of the twin towers. Five other hijackers left Boston at around the same time and crashed United Airlines Flight 175 into the other tower.

Last summer, members of the National Commission on Terrorism Attacks Upon the United States rejected theories that the hijackers came to Portland to avoid tight security at a larger airport.

Atta and al Omari were screened again in Boston, where they also passed through security without incident. The weapons believed to have been used, short-bladed knives, were not banned at the time under security rules in any airport.

Commission members suggested then that convenience might have been the reason why the two chose to begin the journey in Portland.

"The Portland Jetport was the nearest airport to Boston with a 9/11 flight that would have arrived at Logan in time for the passengers to transfer to American Airlines Flight 11," the report stated.

Portland Police Chief Michael Chitwood says the declassified documents validate the initial assumption of investigators that rived at Logan in time for the hijackers to transfer to American Airlines Flight 11, the report stated.

Chitwood also said Portland Police interviewed airline personnel and he doesn't recall any saying that Atta appeared angry.

Head of U.N. oil-for-food said to have blocked audit

BY DESMOND BUTLER

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The U.N. oil-for-food program chief under scrutiny for alleged corruption and mismanagement, blocked a proposed audit of his office around the same time he was accused of soliciting lucrative oil deals from Iraq, according to investigators.

A U.N. auditing team, which was severely understaffed, said running the \$64 billion oil-for-food program was "a high risk activity" and a priority for review. But Benon Sevan denied the internal auditors' request to hire a consultant to examine his office in May 2001 — an act top investigators of the program are now calling into question.

"I think the auditors thought they were steered away from some areas," Paul Volcker, who's leading the independent probe. "Our judgment is that the main office should have been audited. And that leaves the inference that perhaps the auditors were not encouraged to do the work. I think we draw the inference that it was at least suspicious."

Two months after Sevan refused the auditors' request, a Panamanian company, African Middle East Petroleum, purchased 1 million barrels of oil, which Iraq had allocated to Sevan — one of nine allocations made between 1998 and 2002 involving Sevan and believed to have netted the company \$1.5 million, said an interim report Volcker's committee released this month.

The head of AMEP, Fakhry Abdelnour, a friend of Sevan, told in-

Annan says he's not quitting

The Associated Press

LONDON — United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in a television interview broadcast Sunday

that he had no plans to resign over allegations of kickbacks and bribes in the U.N. oil-for-food program for Iraq.

Annan said he was awaiting results of an investigation into the allegations.

"In the meantime I have put

forward solid and bold proposals for reform, so resignation is not on the cards for me at the moment," he told British Broadcasting Corp. TV's "Breakfast With Frost" program.

Several U.S. congressional committees have been investigating allegations of corruption in the program that allowed now deposed Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's government to sell oil and use the proceeds to buy food, medicine and other humanitarian goods.

Concerns about Annan's leadership deepened with the release of an interim report last week, led by former U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, which criticized U.N. management of the program.

investigators he paid \$160,000 as a kickback to an Iraqi-controlled account in Jordan in October 2001 under one of the oil-for-food schemes under examination.

Volcker did not say that Sevan received kickbacks but expressed concern at \$160,000 in cash that Sevan said he received from an aunt in his native Cyprus in 1999-2003. The investigative report questioned this "unexplained wealth," noting that the aunt, who recently died, was a retired government photographer living on a modest pension.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan last week suspended Sevan after Volcker accused him of a "grave conflict of interest," saying his conduct in soliciting oil deals

for AMEP was "ethically improper and seriously undermined the integrity of the United Nations."

On the day Volcker issued his report, Sevan's lawyer, Eric Lewis, accused the panel of trying to make his client a "scapegoat," saying, "Mr. Sevan never took a penny." He said Sevan was proud of his 40-year U.N. career and of the oil-for-food program, which saved tens of thousands of Iraqis "from death by disease and starvation."

The oil-for-food program was the largest U.N. humanitarian aid operation, running in 1996-2003. It was designed to let Saddam Hussein's government sell limited amounts of oil in exchange for humanitarian goods as an exemption from post-Gulf War sanctions imposed in 1991.

Ore. man soliciting suicides for five years, sheriff says

BY RUKMINI CALLIMACH

The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — A man who used an Internet chat room to try to set up a mass suicide on Valentine's Day had been trying to persuade women for at least five years to engage in sex acts with him and then kill themselves, a sheriff said Sunday.

Gerald Krein faces charges of solicitation to commit murder, but prosecutors are expected to increase the charge to attempted manslaughter Monday said Klamath County Sheriff Tim Egan.

Combing through old chat room records, investigators discovered that Krein had been enticing women across North America to commit suicide as far back as 2000, Evinger said. Krein told investigators he elicited more than two dozen suicide pledges for the Valentine's Day plot, authorities said.

"The common theme is that these were women who were vulnerable, who were depressed. He invited them to engage in certain sexual acts with him, and then they were to hang themselves naked from a beam in his house," the sheriff said. "He was indicating in these chat groups to these women that he had a beam and that it would hold multiple people."

No deaths had been found that were linked to Krein, the sheriff said, but he said he would not be surprised if someone had killed herself as a result of Krein's alleged activities.

"My concern is if he's been doing this for some time, it's my hope that he hasn't been successful — but it could turn out that he has been," he said.

Krein, 26, was arrested Wednesday at his mother's home in the southern Oregon town of Klamath Falls.

Detectives learned of the Valentine's Day plan from a woman in Ontario, Canada, who said she saw a message in a Yahoo chat room that had "Suicide Ideology" in the title. Chat room participants supposedly planned to commit suicide on Valentine's Day while logged on with each other. The chat room is no longer active.

The woman told detectives she was going to take part in the suicide but had second thoughts when another chat room participant talked about killing her children before taking her own life, Evinger said earlier.

Krein told investigators at least 31 chat room participants agreed to the suicide pact, authorities said. So far, investigators have tracked down four women: the woman who came forward in Canada and three others living in Oregon, Missouri and Virginia. "In the Missouri and Virginia case, he was inviting them to bring their children with them," said Evinger. "It would have been four children total."

While the Valentine's Day suicide was intended to be executed as a group, others were intended as individual experiences, said Evinger.

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Sarah Scantlin, left, looks up at her mother Betsy Scantlin during a reception for Sarah at Golden Plains Health Care Center in Hutchinson, Kan., Saturday. Sarah, unable to talk since she was hit by a drunken driver 20 years ago, has begun to regain her memory and form words.

Accident victim speaks after 20 years of silence

The Associated Press

HUTCHINSON, Kan. — For 20 years, Sarah Scantlin has been mostly oblivious to the world around her — the victim of a drunken driver who struck her down as she walked to her car. Today, after a remarkable recovery, she can talk again.

Scantlin's father knows she will never fully recover, but her newfound ability to speak and her returning memories have given him his daughter back. For years, she could only blink her eyes — one blink for "no," two blinks for "yes" — to respond to questions that she knew no one for sure she understood.

"I am astonished how primal communication is. It is a key element of humanity," Jim Scantlin said, blinking back tears.

Sarah Scantlin was an 18-year-old college freshman on Sept. 22, 1984, when she was hit by a drunk-

en driver as she walked to her car after celebrating with friends at a teen club. That week, she had been hired at an upscale clothing store and won a spot on the drill team at Hutchinson Community College.

After two decades of silence, she began talking last month. Doctors are not sure why.

Scantlin still suffers constantly from the effects of the accident. She habitually crosses her arms across her chest, her fists clenched under her chin.

The driver who struck Scantlin served six months in jail for driving under the influence and leaving the scene of an accident.

Scantlin started talking in mid-January but asked staff members not to tell her parents until Valentine's Day to surprise them, Trammell said. But last week she could not wait any longer to talk to them.

"I didn't think it would ever happen, it had been so long," Betsy Scantlin said.

No fault: Lawyers look to change divorce in N.Y.

BY MICHAEL HILL

The Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — New York would be added to the long list of states with "no-fault" divorce, if a lawyers' group gets its way.

The state Bar Association says New York is the only state lacking some version of a no-fault divorce law, in which a spouse suing for divorce does not have to prove their partner did something wrong.

Though efforts to make divorce easier in New York have failed in the past, the attorneys are making a new push to put a no-fault law on the books. Proponents say contested cases under the current system can extend bad marriages, encourage dishonest court testimony and can be invasive for couples.

"It causes such misery," said Manhattan attorney Harold A. Mayerson. "I have to sit here with clients all the time... and I have to say, 'My sorry, but I have to be a bit voyeuristic in your life. What's your sex life like? Did you sleep with this guy in the last year? If you didn't, why not? Who wants that?'"

Grounds for divorce in New York currently require one of the

spouses to be found "at fault" of serious misconduct like adultery, abandonment or cruel and inhuman treatment. However, couples who reach consent agreements can be granted a divorce after living apart for a year. A bit more than a three-quarters of the 62,530 divorce filings last year statewide were uncontested, a large number of them involving consent agreements.

No-fault laws became popular around the nation beginning in the '60s and '70s. A no-fault bill was introduced to the New York state Legislature in 1989, but it stalled in the face of opposition from religious lobbyists who felt it devalued the sanctity of marriage and domestic advocates who worried it might be unfair to women.

"By the '80s, virtually every jurisdiction in the country except New York had some form of no fault," said lawyer Alton L. Abramowitz.

Abramowitz helped write proposed no-fault legislation with other members of the state bar that would allow for divorces when a marriage has "broken down irretrievably."

While it might seem counterintu-

itive for lawyers to want to streamline a process that makes them money, Abramowitz said the current system is rife with problems. He said under the current "at-fault" system, couples routinely conspire to make up a fault — like "We haven't had sexual relations in a year" — to get a divorce.

The New York City bar has urged the Legislature to pass a no-fault law and the state Women's Bar Association reversed its longstanding opposition to no fault last fall. In the latest coup for no-fault proponents, New York Chief Judge Judith Kaye mentioned it favorably in her State of the Judiciary address this week.

But support for no fault is by no means universal.

Gloria Jacobs, of the domestic relations law task force of the state chapter of the National Organization for Women, said no fault could be economically bad for women in cases where husbands are the breadwinners. She said it could take away the mommed spouse's incentive to settle.

And Dennis Poust of the New York State Catholic Conference said that in cases where there is no abuse or other recognized grounds for divorce, the one-year waiting period seems to be working fine.

Mass. doctors also notice resistance to HIV antibiotics

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Massachusetts doctors have treated several HIV patients with a resistance to some of the most commonly prescribed treatments, raising further concerns about a possible new, drug-resistant strain of the virus.

The patients' resistance to drug treatment is similar to a New York City case that has sparked widespread concern among public health experts, the Boston Herald reported.

Dr. Gregory Robbins, an infectious-disease expert at Massachusetts General Hospital, said doctors there have treated several HIV patients in recent years with early resistance to two of the four

drugs most commonly prescribed to treat infection.

"There is global concern that there may be an increasing amount of patients who have a resistant virus," Robbins said.

In the New York case, an unidentified man in his mid-40s was diagnosed with a rare strain of HIV in December. He showed an immediate resistance to three classes of HIV drugs, and his infection progressed to AIDS within three months.

Drug resistance is increasingly common among HIV-positive people, but not with such a fast progression to AIDS, said Ron Valdeseri of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

He said public health officials have not confirmed any other similar cases.

One year later, Calif. mayor is still pushing gay nuptials

BY LISA LEFF

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Marking the anniversary of his decision to sanction same-sex marriages, Mayor Gavin Newsom on Saturday urged gay couples to back politicians who support gay marriage, saying it is time "to hold our elected officials accountable."

Newsom is no longer acceptable for politicians to come to you every election cycle and ask for money and then say, "It's too much, too soon," Newsom told about 3,000 gay and lesbian supporters during a ceremony to remember the anniversary of last year's "Winter of Love," the four-week period when his administration granted marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

The licenses were later voided by the California Supreme Court, which ruled that Newsom had overstepped his authority. A ruling is expected any day on a pair of lawsuits filed by the city and same-sex couples that seek to overturn California's marriage laws.

"He is a hero, especially to be a straight man and to stand up for our rights when he doesn't have to," said Beth McLaughlin, 40, who married her partner last year.

Although the couple was about to leave on an anniversary cruise

to Mexico, McLaughlin said they did not hesitate to drive nearly 100 miles to hear the mayor speak in City Hall.

"For him to back us has been awesome, and he has stuck his head out on the chopping block quite a few times," McLaughlin said.

The 37-year-old Democrat is blamed for feeding a conservative rush to the polls in November, when 11 states passed anti-gay marriage amendments. Gay marriage opponents have taken steps to do the same in another 17 states, according to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

"I've never felt a greater sense of purpose — but beyond anything else, an obligation to finish this job," he said. "We will not back up. I have no regrets."

His "too much, too soon" remarks appeared aimed at Sen. Diane Feinstein, D-Calif. The former San Francisco mayor said Newsom's decision to let gay couples marry played a role in President Bush's re-election and that the gay marriage issue "has been too much, too fast, too soon."



Newsom

Gunmen open fire in Upstate New York mall

KINGSTON, N.Y. — At least two gunmen opened fire Sunday inside a crowded mall in upstate New York, wounding one person, authorities said.

The gunmen began shooting inside the Hudson Valley Mall in Kingston, nearly 90 miles north of New York City. One gunman was taken into police custody. At least one person was shot in the leg and evacuated by helicopter to an Albany hospital, police said.

The mall was evacuated after the shooting.

From The Associated Press

Do Michael Jackson peers even exist?

Lawyers from both sides try to find people to sit in judgement of pop star

By TIM MOLLOY
The Associated Press

ASANTA MARIA, Calif. — Attorneys in Michael Jackson's child-molestation trial are turning to the tough job of finding jurors who can judge the pop star not as a legend but as a defendant.

Finding a jury of peers is a daunting task when the defendant lives in a storybook mansion with its own amusement park.

"If you talk about a jury of your peers, it would have to be Madonna, Liza Minelli and maybe Elvis," said former San Francisco prosecutor and trial watcher Jim Hammer. "Michael looks like nobody else in the courtroom."

Jackson is black, while the community which will supply the jury is mostly white. Many prospects who appeared in court two weeks ago to fill out eight-page questionnaires told the judge they were barely scraping by.

"This would be a financial devastation for me," said one 67-year-old man, explaining he couldn't afford to miss work for what is expected to be a

six-month trial.

On Monday, attorneys on both sides begin thinning the nearly 250 prospects who filled out detailed questionnaires to 12 jurors and eight alternates. Jury selection was delayed a week because of the death of Jackson attorney Thomas Mesereau Jr.'s sister.

Prosecutors and defense lawyers won't likely bother trying to find jurors who share much with Jackson, who is accused of plying a boy, then 13, with alcohol, molesting him and conspiring to hold his family captive.

Instead, they'll look to dismiss those who are biased.

During questioning of would-be jurors, each side has an unlimited number of challenges for cause — challenges that let them remove someone because of obvious bias. In addition, each side has 10 "peremptory" challenges to remove jurors without explaining why.

Jackson's lawyers will be conscious of the jury's racial composition and jurors' views on race.

On the questionnaires, prospects were asked whether their "feelings about or experiences with people of other races would affect their ability to be



Pop singer Michael Jackson waves as he and his attorney Thomas Mesereau Jr., left, leave the Santa Barbara County courthouse on Feb. 1, after the second day of jury selection in Jackson's child molestation trial in Santa Maria, Calif.

fair. All but 16 of the 242 respondents answered "no."

There does, however, seem to be a racial divide in how people view Jackson: A recent CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll found that almost three-fourths of whites believe the charges are probably or definitely true, while about half of blacks feel that way.

The questionnaire also probed whether prospective jurors had experienced or been accused of inappropriate sexual behavior and how closely they had followed the current Jackson case,

as well as the molestation allegations he faced a decade ago.

Potential jurors also were asked whether they have worked with abused children and whether they have been diagnosed with cancer.

Jackson is accused of molesting the boy at his Neverland Ranch as the boy recovered from cancer.

In the end, the defense needs just one juror on its side to prevent a conviction. Prosecutors must persuade all 12 that Jackson is guilty.

Nudists lobby for return to Md. shore

By SARAH ABRUZZESE
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Years ago it wasn't just horses that ran wild on Maryland's Assateague Island — in summer naked sunbathers cavorted in the waves beside them. Now an association for nudists has been lobbying the state's General Assembly to let them return to the natural habitat.

But the Maryland lawmaker who represents the island is wild by opposed.

Delegate Bennett Bosman, D-Worcester, said he's listening to his constituents, and they are strongly against nudism on Assateague.

"My people would eat me alive," Bosman said about the idea of introducing legislation to allow naked bathing.

"I don't think that is right. We do try to maintain a family image."

But Susan Weaver, the public relations chairwoman for the American Association for Nude Recreation, said nudism is just about good community-oriented people who enjoy getting out of their clothes.

"We have made a real point of making sure people know what skinny dipping is and that we represent wholesome family nude recreation," Weaver said.

There are two nudist groups in the United States with approximately 47,000 members.

Prostitution 'has become the crime du jour'

N.Y. madams allegedly made mint off oldest profession

By TOM HAYS
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — During her fling with notoriety, the Mayflower Madam argued the oldest profession was merely "naughty," not criminal.

More than two decades later, police have cracked down on a new generation of Manhattan madams who allegedly became wealthy by running prostitution rings for big spenders — like their famous forebear, Sydney Biddle Barrows, one of them wonders what all the fuss is about.

"It's the oldest game in town," Julie Moya said before surrendering to a vice squad late last month. "We don't hurt anyone. We just offer pleasure."

Moya's arrest followed that of Jennifer Paulino, 44, accused in December of raking in millions of dollars through pricey prostitutes. In another high-profile case, Jason Itzler, 27, a New Jersey law school graduate, was arrested last month at a swank Manhattan hotel and charged with making a fortune by selling sex.

Prostitution "has become the crime du jour," said Moya's attorney, Dan Ollen.

The trio of recent cases reflects the trade's resiliency in a city where streetwalking has waned, but the Internet sex has flourished. In each, the defendants used provocative Web sites to advertise their escorts and arranged dates by phone, authorities said.

Operating out of a downtown loft, Itzler's NY Confidential service offered customers "The Ultimate Girlfriends experience."

A date with one of his 100 escorts didn't come cheap: Authorities say one agreed to have oral sex

and intercourse with an undercover officer for \$990 at the W Hotel, billed to a credit card under "Gotham Steaks."

Paulino allegedly made \$2.5 million over five years — enough to afford a condominium in a Donald Trump high-rise on the Upper East Side and a vacation home in Miami. She and other defendants kept records with names of rich customers — many of them business executives — willing to pay up to \$2,500 an hour for prostitutes who could pass for lingerie models, police said.

"There's a tremendous amount of money involved," said Inspector James P. O'Neill, head of the New York Police Department's vice enforcement division.

Escort services can operate for years without attracting attention from law enforcement — as long as they remain discreetly behind closed doors. (Paulino had no prior arrests.) But some operations invite undercover vice investigations by annoying neighbors, not paying taxes, dealing drugs and — in Moya's case — allegedly employing underage girls.

Investigators say the madam of an escort service known as Julie's of New York City provided a 15-year-old prostitute with fake identification and told her she "had to be a thoroughbred," which meant having unprotected sex and doing drugs with johns, said prosecutor Matthew Bransford. Moya, he added, made \$3 million to \$6 million a year while telling people she ran a catering business.

The consequences could be severe: Moya faces up to 15 years in prison; Paulino could get 25 if convicted of both prostitution and money-laundering charges. Both faces heavy fines and forfeitures.



AP photos

Jennifer Paulino, 44, arrives at State Supreme Court in New York on Jan. 26. Paulino allegedly made \$2.5 million over five years in proceeds from operating a high priced prostitution ring.



Sydney Biddle Barrows, known as the Mayflower Madam, Barrows blazed the trail that several madams have followed.

Police say bus driver asked kids to act up

Woman allegedly making 'Survivor' audition tape

The Associated Press

BUENA VISTA, Pa. — A school bus driver encouraged students to jump around, throw things and misbehave on her moving bus so she could make an audition videotape for the reality television show "Survivor," police said.

Maureen Monaghan was charged with recklessly endangering children after allegedly urging 10 students to act up on her bus for the video, which she hoped would earn her a spot on the CBS show.

A separate camera on the inside of the bus recorded the Jan. 6 incident, and the bus company gave the footage to police.

"She encouraged the children to be disorderly on the bus while it was moving," Elizabeth Township police Chief Robert Wallace said. "In viewing the tape, there was so much commotion going on, we felt it was a very unsafe situation for her to allow this to happen."

It was not clear why the driver wanted misbehaving students in the video. The network suggests that "Survivor" applicants use their auditions to "talk about your job" and "why you would be the ultimate Survivor," according to the show's Web site.

Police collected 21 permission slips that some parents signed related to the taping, but only Monaghan's name was on the bottom, and there was no indication school officials knew about the plan, officer Kris Wagstaff said.

A woman who answered the telephone listed under Monaghan's name said Monaghan was not home Saturday and referred questions to attorney Charles L. Presti, but did not immediately return a phone message left at his office.

The school district is investigating, spokeswoman Jane Milner said.



SOUTHERN STANDARD (TENN.)/AP

Pamela Turner walks into the Warren County Jail in McMinnville, Tenn., for her booking last week. People around McMinnville are struggling to reconcile their image of Turner with charges that she sexually assaulted a 13-year-old student.

Tenn. town rocked by charges teacher had sex with student

BY COLIN FLY

The Associated Press

McMINNVILLE, Tenn. — People around this central Tennessee town are struggling to reconcile their image of Pamela Turner with charges that she sexually assaulted one of her students, a 13-year-old boy.

They knew the 27-year-old woman as an elementary school physical education teacher, a former college basketball player and a blonde with movie-star looks.

While such cases of female teachers and sex are often fraught with double-standards and misunderstanding motivations, even police have a hard time making sense of this one.

"She's absolutely gorgeous, a beautiful girl," Warren County Sheriff Jackie Mahteny said. "I just hate it for everyone."

Turner was charged this week with 15 counts of sexual battery by an authority figure and 13 counts of statutory rape for having sex with the boy at his home and at school. She was released on \$50,000 bail and neither she nor her lawyer have responded to calls since cameras caught her leaving court with a car pulled down over her eyes.

Kansas State University education professor Bob Shoop, who has testified in 40 court cases involving sexual abuse in schools, said people are always surprised when a woman is involved in such cases because they assume boys are sexually aggressive and cannot be victims.

"The reality is a child is a child, regardless of the gender," Shoop said. "It's immoral, illegal and unethical for any educator to have sex with a student."

Investigators declined to comment on the nature of the relationship between Turner and her student, but they said she lived with the boy and his family for a brief time after she moved out of her husband's home.

Acting on a complaint from someone the prosecutor won't name, authorities say there was evidence of multiple sex acts between November and January.

Warren County schools director Jerry Hale said he met with Turner for 30 minutes Jan. 26 to tell her she had been reassigned.

"She was adamant in her defense," Hale said. "She had a friendship, of course, with the student and the family, but she basically said she wasn't guilty and she was shocked she'd been accused."

In this town of 13,000, Turner had the makings of a respectable life.

In 2003, she married Chris Turner, who would be named the Warren County High School boys basketball coach. She had played college basketball herself at Tennessee Tech and Cumberland University, and got a job teaching PE and coaching girls' basketball at Centerville Elementary School near McMinnville.

Court records show Chris Turner filed for divorce Jan. 14 citing "irreconcilable differences" and "inappropriate marital conduct," but provide no details.

"There's no evidence that he was aware of any involvement by the defendant with the boy," said District Attorney Dale Potter.

Conviction on all counts could be punished by up to 100 years in prison. But Potter said it was more likely that a conviction would mean a minimum of a year to several years in prison.

Parents protest ID badges monitoring students

BY LISA LEFF

The Associated Press

SUTTER, Calif. — The only grade school in this rural town is requiring students to wear radio frequency identification badges that can track their every move. Some parents are outraged, fearing it will take away their children's privacy.

The badges introduced at Brittan Elementary School on Jan. 18 rely on the same radio frequency and scanner technology that companies use to track livestock and product inventory. Similar devices recently have been used to monitor youngsters in some parts of Japan.

But few American school districts have embraced such a monitoring system, and civil libertarians hope to keep it that way.

"If this school doesn't stand up, then other schools might adopt it," Nicole Ozer, a representative of the American Civil Liberties Union, warned school board members at a meeting Tuesday night. "You might be a small community, but you are one of the first communities to use this technology."

The system was imposed, without parental input, by the school as a way to simplify attendance-taking and potentially reduce vandalism and improve student safety. Principal Earnie Graham hopes to eventually use bar codes to track existing ID's so that students can use them to pay for cafeteria meals and check out library books.

But some parents see a system that can monitor their children's movements on cam-

pus as something straight out of Orwell.

"There is a way to make kids safer without making them feel like a piece of inventory," said Michael Contrall, one of several angry parents who complained. "Are we trying to bring them up with respect and trust, or tell them that you can't trust anyone, you are always going to be monitored, and someone is always going to be watching you?"

Contrall said he told his children, in the fifth and seventh grades, not to wear the badges. He also filed a protest letter with the board and alerted the ACLU.

Graham, who also serves as the superintendent of the single-school district, told the parents that their children could be disciplined for boycotting the badges — and that he doesn't understand what all their angst is about.

"Sometimes when you are on the cutting edge, you get caught," Graham said, recounting the angry phone calls and notes he has received from parents.

Each student is required to wear identification cards around their necks with their picture, name and grade and a wireless transmitter that beams their ID number to a teacher's handheld computer when the child passes under an antenna posted above a classroom door.

Graham also asked to have a chip reader installed in locker-room bathrooms to reduce vandalism, although that reader is not functional yet. And while he has ordered everyone on campus to wear the badges, he



Dawn and Mike Contrall's daughter, a seventh-grader at Brittan Elementary School, poses at her Sutter, Calif., home wearing the radio frequency identification tag that the school asked her to wear. The tag allows students to be tracked throughout the school.

said only the seventh and eighth grade classrooms are being monitored thus far.

In addition to the privacy concerns, parents are worried that the information on and inside the badges could wind up in the wrong hands and endanger their children, and that radio frequency technology might carry health risks.

Graham dismisses each objection, argu-

ing that the devices do not emit any cancer-causing radioactivity, and that for now, they merely confirm that each child is in his or her classroom, rather than track them around the school like a global-positioning device.

The 15-digit ID number that confirms attendance is encrypted, he said, and not linked to other personal information such as an address or telephone number.

'Mortal Edison' strives for immortality

BY JAY LINDSAY
The Associated Press

WELLESLEY, Mass. — Ray Kurzweil doesn't tallgate. A man who plans to live forever doesn't take chances with his health on the highway, or anywhere else.

As part of his daily routine, Kurzweil ingests 250 supplements, eight to 10 glasses of alkaline water and 10 cups of green tea. He also periodically tracks 40 to 50 fitness indicators, down to his "tactile sensitivity." Adjustments are made as needed.

"I do actually fine-tune my programming," he said.

The famed inventor and computer scientist is serious about his health because if it fails him he might not live long enough to see humanity achieve immortality, a seismic development he predicts in his new book to no more than 20 years away.

It's a blink of an eye in history, but long enough for the 56-year-old Kurzweil to pay close heed to his fitness. He urges others to do the same in "Fantastic Voyage: Live Long Enough to Live Forever."

The book is partly a health guide so people can live to benefit from a coming explosion in technology he predicts will make infinite life spans possible.

Kurzweil writes of millions of blood cell-sized robots, which he calls "nanobots," that will keep us forever young by swarming through the body, repairing bones, muscles, arteries and brain cells. Improvements to our genetic coding will be downloaded via the Internet. We won't even need a heart.

The claims are fantastic, but Kurzweil is



Author and inventor Ray Kurzweil, 56 is serious about his health, because if it fails him he might not live long enough to see humanity achieve immortality, a seismic development he predicts is possible in his new book.

no crank. He's the recipient of the \$500,000 Lemelson-MIT prize, which is billed as a sort of Academy Award for inventors, and he won the 1999 National Medal of Technology Award. He has written on the emergence of intelligent machines in publications ranging from *Wired* to *Time* magazine. The

Christian Science Monitor has called him a "modern Edison." He was inducted into the Inventors Hall of Fame in 2002.

During a recent interview in his company offices, Kurzweil sipped green tea and spoke of humanity's coming immortality as if it's as good as done. He sees human intelligence

not only conquering its biological limits, including death, but completely mastering the natural world.

Critics say Kurzweil's predictions of immortality are wild fantasies based on unjustifiable leaps from current technology.

"I'm not calling Ray a quack, but I am calling his message about immortality in line with the claims of other quacks that are out there," said Thomas Peris, a Boston University aging specialist who studies the genetics of centenarians.

Kurzweil says his critics often fail to appreciate the exponential nature of technological advance, with knowledge doubling year by year so that amazing progress eventually occurs in short periods.

Kurzweil's been thinking big ever since he was little. At 6, he developed a miniature theater in which a robotic dog moved the scenery. By age 8, the Queens, N.Y., native built his own computer and programmed it to compose original melodies.

His interest in health developed out of concern about his own future. Kurzweil's grandfather and father suffered from heart disease, his father dying when Kurzweil was 22. Kurzweil was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes in his mid-30s.

Kurzweil refuses to concede the inevitability of his own death, even if science doesn't advance as quickly as he predicts.

Kurzweil said he's no "cheerleader" for unlimited scientific progress and added he knows science can't answer questions about why eternal lives are worth living.

But to him there's no question of huge advances in things that make life worth living, such as art, culture, music and science.

Arizona law makes it tough for seniors to skip jury duty

BY PAUL DAVENPORT
The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Proving she couldn't serve on a jury this month was no easy task for Joann Paulmann, who is 75 and suffers from Parkinson's disease.

Under state law, she was required to get a detailed medical note from a neurologist and her family physician. Paulmann's husband, Harry, was stunned.

"At age 75, I don't know why it's mandatory that you come up with a doctor's certificate," he said. "Her Parkinson's is not going to get any better."

Arizona is among at least eight states that have enacted variations of the Jury Patriotism Act, a model statute promoted by the American Legislative Exchange Council as a way to make juries more representative of their communities.

But now, after hearing complaints from senior citizens like Paulmann, Arizona may loosen the 2003 law requiring a doctor's note to get out of jury duty.

Previously, seniors could make a phone call or dash off a note to a jury official to get excused. Now they have to get a physician — not just a caregiver or nursing home administrator — to a doctor's reasons why they can't serve.

Some making claims of financial hardships have to provide information on household income. And some military personnel temporarily serving overseas have been told to provide a letter from a commanding officer.

"People complain about the documentation," said Jeff Mangis, Yuma County Superior Court chief deputy clerk. "Common sense says as a jury commissioner we're going to excuse you, but people still had to go through the process."

Other states have tried different methods.

Idaho has resorted to ignoring and public humiliation to decrease the rate of no-shows. Some courts there call prospective jurors to remind them to

show up, and one Bonneville County magistrate has had no-shows appear in court before jurors who did appear and sentenced them to a night in jail.

In Philadelphia, scofflaws are summoned to a special court where they receive fines, community service sentences and sometimes jail time.

Some have tried offering amenities, such as free or inexpensive parking. Phoenix's city court has work stations, movies, snacks and quiet rooms for jurors waiting to be called to a courtroom.

Arizona legislators have introduced at least five bills this year to modify the 2003 law. Other states that have adopted versions of the jury act so far include Colorado, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma and Utah.

The Arizona House on Monday approved a bill that would give people age 75 or older the blanket right to be temporarily or permanently excused on request. A similar bill approved by the Senate would create an opt-out option for people age 75 or older who lack transportation or who would face "undue or extreme hardship."

The 2003 law largely removed jury commissioners' discretion to grant requests for excuses based on transportation difficulties. Other provisions of the 2003 law, including one that raised the fine for jury scofflaws to \$500 from \$100, would remain largely untouched.

Several legislators said they are uneasy about age-based criteria for jury duty. "I can't really vote for something that is arbitrary in its impact on something that is a critical institution to our country," said state Sen. Bill Brotherton.

The pending Arizona legislation reflects an ongoing tension in jury administration, said Paula Hamanoff-Aggr, principal court research consultant for the Center for Jury Studies at the Center for State Courts in Williamsburg, Va.

Jury officials don't want to excessively burden anybody with jury service but being too liberal with excuses increases the burden on people still in the pool of prospective jurors, she said.

'No brain, no pain' Study: Lobsters don't suffer when cooked

BY CLARKE CANFIELD
The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine — A new study out of Norway concludes that it's "unlikely" lobsters feel pain, stirring up a long-simmering debate over whether Maine's most valuable seafood suffers when it's being cooked.

Animal activists have claimed for years that lobsters feel excruciating agony when they are cooked, and that dropping one in a pot of boiling water is tantamount to torture.

But the study, which was funded by the Norwegian government and written by a scientist at the University of Oslo, suggests that lobsters and other invertebrates probably don't suffer — even if lobsters do tend to thrash in boiling water.

The report was aimed at determining if invertebrates such as insects, crustaceans, worms and mollusks should be subject to animal welfare legislation as Norway revises its animal welfare law. It summarized the scientific literature dealing with feelings and pain among those creatures without backbones.

The study concluded that most invertebrates — including lobsters, crabs, worms, snails, slugs and clams — probably don't have the capacity to feel pain.

Lobster biologists in Maine have maintained for years that

the lobster's primitive nervous system and underdeveloped brain are similar to that of an insect. While lobsters react to different stimuli, such as boiling water, the reactions are escape mechanisms, not a conscious response or an indication of pain, they say.

The Norwegian report backs up what the state's lobster industry and researchers have always said, according to Bob Bayer, executive director of the Lobster Institute, a research and education organization based in Orono.

But the Norwegian study also cautioned that more research is needed, because there's a scarcity of scientific knowledge on the subject.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, an animal rights organization based in Norfolk, Va., has made lobster pain part of its Fish Empathy Project, putting out stickers and pamphlets with slogans like "Bein' Boiled Hurts. Let Lobsters Live."

PETA's Kristin Loberth called the Norwegian study biased, saying the government doesn't want to hurt the country's fishing industry.

But Mike Loughlin, who studied the boiling of lobsters as a University of Maine graduate student, said lobsters don't lack the brain capacity to feel pain.

"It's a semantic thing. No brain, no pain," said Loughlin, now a biologist at the Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission.

Valentine's Day acquires political layer

Activists push traditional marriage values on Feb. 14

BY DAVID CRARY

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Chocolates and flowers still abound, but Valentine's Day is acquiring a new, politically tinged layer of symbolism. For many activists, it's now the date of choice to mobilize on matters of the heart — advocating abstinence, decrying divorce, rallying nationwide to demand gay marriage.

Across the country, teens from hundreds of schools and youth groups will make chastity pledges Monday on the "Day of Purity" organized by the Liberty Counsel, a Florida-based conservative legal group.

In Arkansas, Gov. Mike Huckabee and his wife, Janet, will renew their wedding vows in the presence of hundreds of other couples at a ceremony promoting the state's covenant marriage law — a voluntary system that makes divorce harder to obtain. "The nation will be watching as we take a stand for marriage," the Huckabees' invitation says.

And at statehouses, courthouses and city halls nationwide, gay-rights supporters will be rallying in support of gay marriage as Valentine's Day serves as the

centerpiece of Freedom to Marry Week. Similar observances have occurred annually since 1998, but this year the mood is more combative as state after state moves to entrench bans on gay marriage in their constitutions.

Last year, 13 states enacted constitutional bans on gay marriage, seeking to thwart any ripple effect from court rulings like the one that legalized same-sex marriages in Massachusetts.

Legislatures in at least a half-dozen more states are considering similar bans this year; Kansas lawmakers already have placed such a ban on the ballot for a statewide vote April 5.

"We are at a moment of peril right now where our opponents are able to stampede people into adopting these discriminatory amendments, depriving them of the time to take a deep breath and embrace fairness," Wolfson said.

Monday's events include rallies for gay marriage in Milwaukee, Portland, Ore. and Tampa, Fla., and at the statehouses in Maryland, New Mexico and Washington state. In Richmond, Va., gay and lesbian couples plan to apply for marriage licenses at City Hall, then be united in ceremonies performed by a minister from the

Metropolitan Community Church. Same-sex couples in California plan to request marriage licenses from their county clerk's office.

A very different crowd is expected Monday evening at a North Little Rock arena for the marriage celebration in Arkansas — where voters overwhelmingly approved a gay-marriage ban last year.

"This fun-filled, romantic evening will encourage and equip you as a couple to go the distance," said the Huckabees' invitation.

The governor, in a telephone interview, said he wants to make more Arkansasans aware of covenant marriage — an option in which couples pledge to go through lengthy counseling before any divorce, unless there is a dramatic factor such as physical abuse.

"We're trying to combat the idea that covenant marriage is some kind of holier-than-thou religious act," said Huckabee. "It's an admission on our part that keeping a marriage together is very hard work; it's a commitment that if the marriage hits a crisis, we'll see counselors before we see lawyers — and see if we can work it out."



Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and Arkansas first lady Janet Huckabee smile at the Governor's Inaugural Ball in Little Rock, Ark., in 2003. On Valentine's Day 2005, the Huckabees plan to renew their wedding vows before hundreds of other couples in a ceremony promoting the state's covenant marriage law.

Postmarked Valentine, Neb.

Middle America city puts a little extra heart into lovers' holiday

BY CHUCK BROWN

The Associated Press

Valentine's Day is a big deal in Valentine, Neb.

From placing a Valentine postmark on thousands of pieces of mail and hosting extra weddings to offering heart-shaped steaks, this city of 2,900 people goes all-out for the lovers' holiday.

"We do it up pretty big," said Chamber of Commerce director Dean Jacobs. "We definitely, definitely associate ourselves with Valentine's Day. Other people associate us with it, too."

The chamber runs a mail redirecting program called Cupid's Mailbox. Employees stamp thousands of letters and packages with Valentine greetings and put them back in the mail so they carry the Valentine postmark.

"We do buckets of them," Jacobs said.

During the week before Valentine's Day, the local post office processes roughly 15,000 extra pieces of mail — double what it handles in a normal week.

Couples looking to get married on Valentine's Day also make their way to Nebraska's "Heart City." The district court clerk magistrate is scheduled to conduct six weddings on Monday.

However, the number of weddings will likely be higher because couples from across the country make last-minute decisions to get married in Valentine on Valentine's Day, said Marsha Bauer, general manager of the Holiday Inn Express, where ceremonies have been held for the last five years.

Locals also get in the spirit, Jacobs said. Many treat Valentine's Day with the rever-



Dede Markus hand cancels letter at the Valentine, Neb., post office on Friday. The post office receives thousands of Valentine's every year and postmarks them with a heart.

ence usually reserved for religious holidays and some send yearly Valentine's cards instead of Christmas cards.

City streets are picked as Valentine's Day king and queen.

The local steakhouse, The Peppermill, has been serving heart-shaped ribeye steaks for two for the last 17 years.

Owner Roger Joseph said he expects about 500 steak orders this year. He even gets orders from the around country. A doctor in New Jersey once ordered six steaks, he said.

"We just pack them and ship them wherever," Joseph said.

"It's a novelty people seem to remember."

Forbidden love

Despite ban, Saudis mark lovers' day

The Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — The Saudi woman, swathed in black with only her eyes showing, circled a huge, red teddy bear, wondering if the plastic flowers stuck in the crook of its arm were too tacky.

She wanted this Valentine's Day to be perfect. She ordered 100 red roses to be delivered to her husband of a few weeks, bought him the largest-size bar of his favorite chocolate and planned to surprise him with a dinner party at her parents' house.

But there was one hitch: She had made the plans for Feb. 12, thinking that was the day the rest of the world marked Valentine's.

Her confusion was not a surprise in a country where Valentine's Day is prohibited and religious authorities confiscate red items from gift stores and call the occasion a Christian celebration true Muslims should shun.

The kingdom's attitude toward Valentine's Day is in line with the strict school of Islam followed by the kingdom for a century.

Like Valentine's Day, all Christian and even most Muslim festivals are banned in the kingdom, the birthplace of Islam, because they're considered an unorthodox creation Islam doesn't sanction.

Beyond the ban, it's a challenge for couples to be together on Valentine's or any other day because of strict segregation of the sexes. Dating consists of long private conversations and the rare tryst. Men and women cannot go for a drive together, have a meal or talk on the street unless they are close relatives. Infractions are punished by detentions.

The *muttawa*, or religious police, mobilize a few days before Feb. 14, making the rounds of gift and flower shops. As Feb. 14 approaches, the flush of red fades.

Every heart, every rose and every item that's red or that suggests love and romance descends underground, to the black market, where its price triples and quadruples. Red flowers are hidden in back rooms.

Salesmen and waiters avoid wearing red, entrepreneurs whose stores maintain a red hue risk days in jail.

In religious lectures at schools, teachers and administrators warn students against marking the occasion, noting Saint Valentine was a Christian priest, according to an educational supervisor, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The supervisor said that on Valentine's Day last year girls lining up for daily morning prayer were inspected from head to toe by teachers looking for violations of rules that ban wearing or carrying any red item on the day.

Despite the restrictions, Valentine's Day has caught on, partly due to satellite TV, where the occasion, like other holidays, is worked into the course of a series.

Shoppers who know where to look can find plenty of Valentine gifts.

In most cases, the gifts are not presented on Valentine's Day. A woman may not get permission from her parents to go out that night, and stores don't want to be saddled with the incriminating items when the muttawa begin making their rounds. Shops either deliver the gifts or ask recipients a few days early and ask them to pick up their presents.

Jessie Strichiola, right, president of Alchemist Media, which helps businesses detect problems and negotiate refunds from search engines, checks a client's Web site log with applications developer James Butler in Studio City, Calif.

AP



Click fraud looms as threat to search engine ad growth

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Like thousands of other merchants, Tammy Harrison thought she had struck gold when hordes visited her Web site by clicking on the small Internet ads she purchased from the world's most popular online search engines.

It cost Harrison as much as \$20 for each click, but the potential new business seemed to justify the expense.

Harrison's delight dimmed, though, when she realized the people clicking on her ads weren't really interested in her products.

She was being victimized by "click fraud," a scam that threatens to squelch the online advertising boom that has been enriching Google Inc., Yahoo Inc. and their many business partners.

The ruse has different twists, but the result is usually the same: Merchants are billed for

fraudulent traffic generated by someone who repeatedly clicks on an advertiser's Web link with no intention of ever buying anything.

Harrison figures she has spent about 200 hours documenting the mischief that drained her budget and diverted customers to a competitor, costing her an estimated \$100,000 in sales.

"Click fraud has gotten out of control," said Harrison, who sells computer software to doctors. It's stealing money from my pocket. It's just as bad as someone walking into a store and taking a television.

Estimates vary widely on how much click fraud is going on in the \$3.8 billion search engine advertising market.

"Click fraud exists, but it's mostly a big paranoia," said Chris Churchill, chief executive of Pathcom Online, a San Francisco firm that studies the spending patterns on search engine ads.

Others believe anywhere from 10 percent to 20 percent of the clicks are made under false pretenses.

"Click fraud is like a big elephant standing in the middle of the living room," said Lisa Wehr, president of Oneupweb, a search engine advertising consultant. "Everyone sees it and knows it's there, but no one is quite sure what to do about it."

Both Google and Yahoo acknowledge the perils of click fraud, but believe improper internal controls and the increased vigilance of advertisers will prevent the problem from escalating. "We are always worried about it, but it hasn't been a material issue so far," said Google chief executive Eric Schmidt.

After recently expanding its list to patrol click fraud, Google broke up a scheme that had generated several thousand bogus transactions, chief financial officer George Reyes told analysts earlier this week.

Yahoo also has been shoring up click fraud protections, said Patrick Giordani, a senior manager for the company's advertising subsidiary, Overture Services.

Such reassurances from search engine executives aren't surprising, given how much they stand to lose if advertisers curtail spending, said Jessie Strichiola, president of Alchemist Media, which helps businesses detect problems and negotiate refunds.

"There's some serious positioning and politicking going on," she said. "Click fraud isn't going to destroy the industry, but it's not going away either."

Harrison said she didn't know a thing about the problem until a former employee made a rival firm and started to repeatedly click on her ads as a competitive tactic. The fraudulent clicks frequently exceeded spending limits and had set knocking her ads out of the display rotation.

The search engines have issued refunds to cover the bogus clicks, but Harrison says those payments don't compensate for missed sales opportunities.

In November, Google filed a lawsuit that revealed the search engine can't even trust some of its own advertising partners.

Houston-based Auction Experts International never recouped its claims it collected at least \$50,000 in illegitimate commissions by clicking on the ad links that Google delivered to its Web site.

But the site shut down and Google won a default judgment against one of its principals.

Get 'dooce'?

Free expression can be costly when bloggers bad-mouth jobs

By AMY JOYCE

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Under the pseudonym of Sarcastic Journalist, Rachel Mosteller wrote this entry on her personal Web log one day last April: "I really hate my place of employment. Seriously."

"Okay, first off. They have these stupid title awards that are supposed to boost

company morale. So you go and do something spectacular (most likely, you're doing your JOB) and then someone says 'Why golly, that was spectacular.' Then they sign your name on some paper, they bring you chocolate and some balloons.

"Okay two people in the newsroom just put it. FOR DOING THEIR JOB."

This post, like all entries in Mosteller's online diary, did not name her company or the writer. It did not name co-workers or bosses.

It did not say where the company was based.

But apparently, Mosteller's supervisors and co-workers at the Durham, N.C., Herald-Sun were well aware of her Web log.

The day after that posting, she was fired.

Bill Stagg, managing editor of the Herald-Sun, said he could not comment on a personnel matter. But Mosteller, 25, said the blog was one of the reasons she was given for losing her job, and she is still in shock. "Considering I treated the blog as a smoke break, I didn't think of it as a problem."

There are 8 million personal Web logs — or blogs — in the United States, according to the Pew Internet & American Life Project. People write blogs to talk about their day, family outings, dates gone awry and, of course, work. But what might feel like a very personal entry about a dismal workday can mean something quite different to a boss who needs only a search engine to read it.

"We all complain about work and our bosses. And the ethos of the blogosphere is to be chatty and sometimes catty and crude," said Lee Rainie, director of the Pew project. "Even in an era of casual Fridays, that is not [how] companies want to be portrayed [to] the world."

Even if workers write the blog

anonymously, an employer may be able to take the position that blogging "is inconsistent with the business mission," said Jonathan Segal, an employment attorney in Philadelphia.

Usually the blogger has little protection. "In most states," said George Lemley, a St. Louis labor lawyer, "if an employer doesn't like what you're talking about, they can simply terminate you."

And that is happening enough that there is even a word for it: getting "dooce." Armstrong Heather coined the phrase in 2002, after she was fired from her Web design job for writing about work and colleagues on her blog, Dooce.com.

Although workers have been writing blogs for years, companies have been slow to create policies to cover them. "Most employers as of now do not have blogging policies, just as 10 years ago they didn't have e-mail policies and now they do," Segal said.

E-mail and Internet policies that have been developed were created to deal with improper employee usage during work hours. Very few companies have rules governing employee computer habits outside work.

Last October, Delta Air Lines flight attendant Ellen Simonetti was fired, she said, for what her supervisor called a misuse of uniform.

Simonetti had posted on her personal blog, Queen of Sky (now called Diary of a Fired Flight Attendant), pictures of herself in her uniform, on an empty plane. The blog also contained thinly veiled work stories.

The airline would not discuss the firing or whether it is a blog policy. But Simonetti has become something of a blog heroine. She filed a complaint against Delta with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, claiming many men were pictured in their uniforms on other Web sites and were not fired. And she started a "Bloggers Rights Movement" calling on other bloggers to sign a petition demanding that companies let employees know their blog policies.

"We can't just let our employers trample our rights. I think there should be clear policies about blogging," she said.

Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

Privacy in money matters

MarketWatch

NEW YORK — Though it might be tempting to ask how much a suit cost or how much a friend is earning at that new job, asking questions about someone else's money is a big breach of etiquette.

"In etiquette, the principles are being respectful, honest and considerate," says Peggy Post, spokeswoman for The Emily Post Institute, which provides etiquette advice. "The honesty part is equated with tact. Yet some people don't think twice when they ask questions like 'How much do you make?' or 'What did you pay for that?'"

Just because a money figure is public, such as school tuition or the listing price for a house, doesn't mean it's acceptable to talk about, says Post. Think about how you'd feel if someone one to start a conversation with you about how you planned to cover tuition payments or how much you think your house is worth or

There are more polite ways to get the information you need.

Do your own research. Real estate agents, for example, are happy to tell you the going price for homes in various neighborhoods. Web sites such as <http://www.salary.com/> use figures from human resources departments to provide average salaries, bonuses and benefits. You can search by job field, position, experience level and geographic location.

Rephrase. You could also rephrase your question to ask about money in general, not specifically one person's money. For example, say, "I'm hoping to become a reporter. Could you tell me the salary range for entry-level positions in your area?"

Remain silent. If someone asks you a nosy question, you you handle it is up to you. "You don't have to answer," says Post. "You can say, 'I don't talk about things like that.'"

But your best bet is to change the subject. "Switch right over to something else. The person you're talking to will usually get the clue," Post says. Unless you know the person well, be tactful and don't mention that he or she is being a bore.

The Pacific Forecast

AccuWeather.com

Forecasts and graphics, provided
by AccuWeather.com ©2005

Tide Table

	Today		High Tide		Tomorrow	
Mainland Japan						
Yokosuka	8:21 a.m.	9:44 p.m.	8:30 a.m.	11:13 p.m.		
Sasebo	12:25 a.m.	12:10 p.m.	1:20 a.m.	12:36 p.m.		
Korea						
Cheju Island/Sogwipo	2:56 a.m.	2:56 p.m.	3:40 a.m.	3:35 p.m.		
Kunsan	7:49 a.m.	7:49 p.m.	8:26 a.m.	8:24 p.m.		
China						
Qinhuai, Naha	11:10 a.m.	none	12:09 a.m.	11:44 a.m.		
Guam, Apra Harbor	12:31 a.m.	11:53 a.m.	2:11 a.m.	12:24 p.m.		
Mainland Japan						
Yokosuka	2:15 a.m.	3:12 p.m.	2:33 a.m.	4:17 p.m.		
Sasebo	6:13 a.m.	6:58 p.m.	6:44 a.m.	7:54 p.m.		
Korea						
Cheju Island/Sogwipo	9:41 a.m.	10:00 p.m.	10:13 a.m.	10:16 p.m.		
Kunsan	2:08 a.m.	2:30 p.m.	2:41 a.m.	3:12 p.m.		
China						
Qinhuai, Naha	4:53 a.m.	5:58 p.m.	5:22 a.m.	7:04 p.m.		
Guam, Apra Harbor	5:59 a.m.	7:17 p.m.	6:46 a.m.	8:16 p.m.		

*** For tides at other sites apply minutes below to Naha tides:**
 Sukko, Ona Wm -36, Sasebo Bay -31, +11 high and low tide.
 Udon Koi -7 high, -8 low, Yonabara, Buckner Bay -44 high, -42 low.

Weather Forecasts:

- SEoul:** Today 43/34. Rain, maybe heavy late. Wednesday 41/27. Morning rain possible.
- SHANGHAI:** Today 61/43. Rain at times. Wednesday 50/36. Chance of rain late.
- North Korea:** Today 27/14. Snow showers diminishing. Wednesday 28/18. Sunshine, then some clouds.
- South Korea:** Today 50/40. Snow showers. Wednesday 54/53. Sunrises and rain.
- TOKYO:** Today 50/40. Overcast and sunshine. Wednesday 54/53. Sunrises and rain.
- SOUTHERN JAPAN:** Today 63/54. Rain, heavy at times. Wednesday 62/44. Rain times of clouds and sun.
- Burma:** Today 85/77. Mostly sunny and hot.
- HONG KONG:** Today 77/67. Chance of a shower. Wednesday 75/68. Cloudy, sun.
- Manila:** Today 86/72. Stray showers. Wednesday 88/72. Partly sunny.
- SINGAPORE:** Today 86/75. Scattered t-storms. Wednesday 86/75. Chance for a t-storm.
- GUAM:** Today 86/73. Scattered showers. Wednesday 85/74. Chance for a shower.
- KWALALEIN:** Today 86/77. Sunny to partly cloudy. Wednesday 86/77. Chance for a shower.

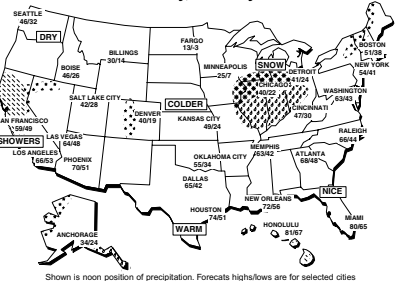
Extended Forecasts

TOKYO
Thursday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 54, low 38.
Friday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 46, low 34.

Sunday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGHLOW	CITY	HIGHLOW
Albuquerque	57/33	Los Angeles	66/53
Amarillo	66/34	Little Rock	71/43
Anchorage	53/33	Louisville	53/33
Asheville	50/30	Miami	76/63
Baltimore	49/32	Milwaukee	46/36
Birmingham	40/35	Nashville	50/30
Boston	51/31	New York	42/32
Boise	48/27	Omaha	46/32
Boston	39/19	Orlando	74/53
Brownsville	83/58	Philadelphia	47/32
Buffalo	33/33	Phoenix	58/38
Burlington	24/30	Pittsburgh	43/36
Charlotte	62/45	Portland, OR	47/35
Charleston	65/42	Portland, ME	32/35
Cleveland	42/32	Portland, ME	48/38
Columbus, OH	46/43	St. Louis	52/45
Duluth	36/33	San Antonio	71/51
El Paso	63/37	San Diego	67/56
El Paso	39/31	San Juan	71/51
Helena	43/32	Tampa	73/56
Indianapolis	49/45	Tulsa	58/41
Jackson	74/53	Washington, DC	69/44
Kansas City	53/38	Wichita	59/34

Tuesday, February 15



U.S. Extended Forecast

A few lingering showers will persist across the Northeast Tuesday morning as a storm system moves off the coast. Skies will brighten behind the storm. Warm sunshine will dominate much of the Deep South, but chilly air will spread over much of the northern Plains and northern Rockies. A storm system will bring some rain to parts of central California. Wednesday, this storm will bring rain to Southern California, with just a few showers falling across northern and central areas. High pressure will provide mainly dry weather from the northern Rockies through the Southeast. A few flurries and snow showers will develop across the Great Lakes.

Tuesday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY
Bangkok	95/77	Iwakuni
Beijing	32/21	Kadena AB
Camp Casey	46/30	Kunsan AB
Christchurch	67/54	Kwajalein
Diego Garcia	86/77	Manila
Hagatna	85/73	Misawa AB
Hanoi	78/66	Osan
Hong Kong	77/67	Perth
Honolulu	81/67	Pusan

Tuesday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGHLOW	CITY	HIGHLOW	CITY	HIGHLOW	CITY	HIGHLOW
Acapulco	91/72	Budapest	36/30	Kabul	34/16	Nairobi	80/51
Athens	55/40	Buenos Aires	78/59	Kiev	42/41	New Delhi	69/43
Auckland	73/67	Cairo	74/53	Kuwait	64/28	Oslo	21/14
Baghdad	83/64	Cancun	83/68	London	43/32	Paris	61/45
Barbados	85/70	Cape Town	84/66	Madrid	52/25	Rio de Janeiro	79/69
Barcelona	84/74	Geneva	37/26	Mexico City	80/42	Rome	48/30
Berlin	26/20	Istanbul	55/38	Montreal	35/20	St. Petersburg	24/19
Bermuda	89/75	Jerusalem	88/76	Nagasaki	27/23	Stockholm	27/23
Brussels	32/23	Johannesburg	52/31	Moncton	31/23	Warsaw	25/15



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Smoking ban sought

HI HONOLULU — Visitors flock to Hawaii's shores to sunbathe, surf and sink their feet into the unblemished white sands of the state's beaches. But camouflaged among the coast's glassy granules lies a hidden peril — seemingly indestructible cigarette butts cast away by smokers.

In a state where every beach is public, it is possible to light up in the sand outside the remotest oceanfront homes.

State lawmakers want that to stop. Under a bill before the Legislature, smoking would be banned on public beaches and parks, and cigarette butts would have to be tossed only into designated trash bins. Violators could be fined \$250. Hawaii would be the first state to have such a law on its books.

Nanny pleads guilty

NY EASTCHESTER — A nanny who left a 1-year-old child home alone while she went Christmas shopping pleaded guilty to endangering a child.

Victoria Brathwaite, 27, was promised a sentence of three years probation and agreed to stay away from the little girl's family. Sentencing is in June.

Charges of reckless endangerment and using the family's Mercedes-Benz without permission were dropped as part of the agreement.

Brathwaite, of Bronxville, was arrested Dec. 15 when she returned from her shopping trip to the home in Eastchester, where she had left the toddler sleeping. The girl's mother had come home unexpectedly and found her daughter in her crib — unharmed — and the nanny missing.

Teacher sentenced

VA CHESAPEAKE — A teacher received a six-month jail sentence and \$2,500 fine for punching a student in the face during a lunchroom confrontation.

Kevin J. Murphy, 46, will appeal his conviction and sentence, his attorney said.

Testimony showed that on Dec. 14, one of Murphy's eighth-grade math students was in the lunch line talking with friends, and "patted" a girl on the head. The boy denied that he struck her.

Five times the teacher commanded the boy to go to the office, and the student refused each time. Murphy grew louder and closer, until the two were jawing at each other from mere inches, teacher John P. Cavanaugh said.

The disagreement ultimately got physical and Murphy punched the student in the cheek and mouth, cutting him and breaking a tooth in half, and then tackled him onto a table, according to testimony.

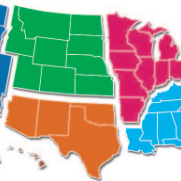
Robbery suspect caught

TX EULESS — A robbery suspect was caught after leaving his wallet on the store counter — and then going to the police station to pick it up, police said.

Joseph Fahnbull, 22, of Arlington, remained in the Euless City Jail with a bail set at \$30,000. He faces a robbery charge.

A few days after the robbery, he walked into the Euless police station, picked up his wallet and a detective called to tell him someone had found it.

"Once we had the wallet, we



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

called him to say it had been turned in to our lost and found." Euless police Detective Marco Valadarez said. "We don't really have one."

Opera house deal

SD LEAD — A historical society has reached a deal to buy an opera house complex that was built by a mining company more than 50 years ago but nearly destroyed in a 1994 fire.

The Historic Homestead Opera House Society will buy the theater and a retail area from Jerikide Inc., which had been working with the society on the theater renovations, society President Jacque Fuller said.

The society, created in 1997 to develop the restoration plan and organize programming at the theater, decided it needed to own the building itself to make fund-raising easier.

Construction on the theater is about a third complete.

Court strikes down ban

WA OLYMPIA — The Washington Supreme Court struck down the Tacoma-Pierce County smoking ban. The ruling upheld a lower court decision that found the ban conflicted with state law. The county ban covered bars, taverns, restaurants, bowling al-

leys, mini-casinos, hotels, private clubs and most other non-tribal businesses. The state's ban prohibits its smoking in most public places, but exempts restaurants, bars, bowling alleys and casinos.

Suspect busted

NM ALBUQUERQUE — Police got the drop on a drug suspect when the man dropped his stash wrapped in cash.

Hugo Suso-Dominguez, 23, was in line at a convenience store in front of two plainclothes officers when he dropped a dollar bill folded into a pouch, police said. The officers, who had stopped at the store to get food while on a surveillance operation, recognized the pouch as a method of holding drugs.

One officer picked up the dollar, unfolded it and found white powder, which later tested positive for cocaine, according to a criminal complaint.

"Hugo looked back at us and the dollar bill, which was now open displaying the suspected cocaine. Hugo laughed and stated, 'That is mine' (in Spanish)," Detective Thomas Gutierrez said.

Candylike cigarettes

MN ST. PAUL — Cigarettes infused with lime, vanilla, berry and other candy flavors would be pulled from store shelves under a proposal by Gov. Tim Pawlenty. He accused the tobacco industry of marketing the specialty products to teens. Public health officials in Massachusetts and Michigan have asked cigarette makers to halt sales of the flavored cigarettes.

Fatal ski accident

VT LUDLOW — A 10-year-old Springfield boy died when he veered off a trail at Okemo Mountain Resort during a school-sponsored trip.

Trevor Stung of Springfield died after he went off the Rimrock trail and struck a snowmaking machine while skiing with his classmates from Park Street School, according to the Ludlow Police Department.

He suffered blunt trauma to the head, chest and stomach and died shortly after being airlifted to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, N.H., police said.

Police said the boy was not wearing a helmet.

Drunk birds crash, die

SC COLUMBIA — Dozens of birds got drunk from eating holly berries, then crashed into the glass of an office building and died.

"It was like an Alfred Hitchcock movie," worker Denise Wilkinson said. "It was spooky. You could hear them where they flew into the glass."

Warm weather and an ample supply of berries attracted hundreds of cedar waxwings into the enclosed courtyard of the three-story building.

The birds began getting drunk on the fermented berries. They got so dizzy that some were falling off branches and others were slamming into the glass walls that enclose the courtyard, said Burgess Mills, the building's owner.

About half of the 100 birds that slammed into the building died, workers said.



Missing her father

Jessica Sheridan, an elementary school pupil from Bryan, Texas, stands on stage in the school's auditorium with a sign telling all attending the Valentines For Vets ceremony that her dad won't be home for Valentine's Day this year. Jessica and classmate Alexis Wright both have fathers serving in Iraq who were recognized during the ceremony.



That's a nice catch

An adult sparrow hawk, about a foot in length, holds on tightly to a field mouse plucked from a field near Elмира, Calif. This member of the North American hawk family relies mainly on insects to feed on, while field mice and other small rodents amount to only about one fourth of its diet.



What's for dessert?

Eric Shepherd tries The Hamdog at Mulligan's in Atlanta. The dish is a hot dog wrapped in a beef patty that's deep fried, covered with chili, cheese and onions and served in a hoagie bun. Oh yeah, it's also topped with a fried egg and two fistfuls of fries.



Snow dog
Haley, a 3-year-old yellow Labrador retriever, leaps for a mouthful of snow as owner Michael Droege clears his driveway in Anchorage, Alaska. Droege describes his dog as a "snow nut."



Busy bee
A honey bee collects pollen from the bloom of a maple tree in Brunswick County near Wilmington, N.C. The bees collect the pollen and store it in their pollen baskets on their rear legs then take it to the hive.



Rocket shot
Matt Wood watches the two-liter bottle rocket creation of Hays High School students climb into the sky during a science competition on the front lawn of Tomanek Hall on the Fort Hays State University campus in Hays, Kan.



Ride 'em
Brenda Noller, left, of Bull Shot Productions takes a picture of Betty Gaston of Edinburg, Texas, riding a stuffed bull at the Two Step Marketplace during the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo. The full-body mounted bovine is owned by Scot Simmons and Craig Luedke and has been at the Stock Show and Rodeo for at least 15 years.

Obesity lawsuits

WY CHEYENNE — On an average day, Bob Tompkins will serve up some 60 pounds of hamburgers and other meat products at the Burger Inn restaurant.

It's enough meat, Tompkins jokes, that "we make our customers run around the store twice before they get their food."

But people suing fast-food establishments for making them fat is no joking matter for Tompkins. "The big guys could fight it in court, but it would put little guys like me out of business," he said.

The Wyoming House has passed a bill that would shield restaurants, advertisers, ranchers and others from lawsuits by obese people claiming their weight and health problems were caused by the long-term consumption of food or drink.

Fourteen states have enacted so-called "common sense consumption" acts, dubbed "cheeseburger bills" by some, that bar people from seeking damages in court from food companies for weight gain and associated medical problems. Wyoming is one of 18 additional states considering such legislation.

Rare books stolen

KY LEXINGTON — Three men were arrested for allegedly stealing several rare books from the Transylvania University library, including a first edition of Charles Darwin's theory of evolution, and then attempting to sell them to a New York auction house, authorities said.

Spencer W. Reinhard, a student at Transylvania, and Warren C. Lipka, a student at the University of Kentucky, were charged with violating a federal law that prohibits the transportation of stolen goods and securities. The third suspect, Charles T. Allen II, was to be charged in a federal complaint.

Authorities said the books stolen from Transylvania's library on Dec. 17 included a 1859 first edition of "The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection," in which Darwin first discussed his theory of evolution.

Mae West ad nixed

AR HOT SPRINGS — The National Park Service has rejected a plan to use Mae West's image on billboards asking tourists to come up and see her sometime in a tower that overlooks the Hot Springs National Park.

The Hot Springs Advertising and Promotion Commission had hoped to use billboards featuring West and gangster Al Capone to promote a historical exhibit in the 216-foot Hot Springs Mountain Tower.

West used to entertain in Hot Springs and Capone once had a hangout in the city.

"It didn't make any sense to have Mae West in a billboard advertising the tower," Park Service Superintendent Josie Fernandez said. "Nobody younger than 30 would know what the heck we're talking about anyway."

Mom sentence in caging

AZ PHOENIX — A woman was sentenced to six years in prison for keeping her 5-year-old twin boys locked in filthy makeshift cages.

Etelvina Rodriguez had previ-

ously pleaded guilty to two counts of attempted child abuse.

Police found the boys in August 2003 after their 20-year-old brother told an off-duty officer at a grocery store about the squalid living conditions.

When police arrived at the home they found the children inside two cribs that had been sealed with plastic crates. Police said the boys could not speak and were not yet toilet-trained. The twins are now in foster care.

Can't eat dogs, cats

HI HONOLULU — The House Judiciary Committee has approved a bill that would make it a felony to kill, distribute or purchase any dog or cat for human consumption.

The original House bill dealt only with stray or stolen dogs and cats, but the committee added language that included all canines and felines.

The bill was introduced by Rep. Glenn Wakai, D-Moanalua Valley-Salt Lake, who said media reports last August about dogs being stolen and slaughtered for meat suggested the beginnings of a "cottage industry" that should be stopped.

Animal Rights Hawaii director Cathy Goeggel said federal officials believe the use of dog meat is a thriving business in Hawaii. There is a public health concern because there is no oversight over the slaughter, packaging or sanitation of cat and dog carcasses, she said.

But Rep. Alex Sonson, D-Pearl City-Waipahu, has reservations about the bill.

"It promotes the perpetuation of a stereotype that Filipinos and Koreans eat dog," he said. "If there is a problem, I certainly would like to legislate it, but that's not the issue."

Arrest spurs trouble

NY NEW YORK — Police in Nassau and Suffolk counties say they were able to tie at least 13 bank robberies to the same man because of the spelling errors in his hold-up notes.

Nassau County Police said Bart Thomas' hold-up notes misspelled the word "robbery" — which he spelled "robrri" — and the word "quick" — which he spelled "kwik."

Thomas, 43, of Ronkonkoma, was arrested and charged with six counts of robbery and is believed to have been involved in nine more bank robberies in Suffolk County, dating back to March 2003, said Nassau Det. Sgt. Gary Schriffen.

Man killed in shootout

WA MARYSVILLE — A man described as suicidal was shot dead by police after opening fire on them from his porch, which is across the street from a junior high school.

Police said the 39-year-old man, whose identity was not released, shot at officers with a rifle. No officers were injured.

None of the 1,000 students were threatened or harmed.

The standoff began when a neighbor went to the man's home to borrow a cigarette and reported seeing him with a gun pointed into his mouth, police Cmdr. Ralph Krusey said. School officials were asked to keep the students inside.

Stories and photos from wire services

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Gis' use of profanity insensitive

I realize when I take my children out into Seoul there are dangers. You keep them at arm's length, and never take your eyes off of them. Even among the weekend crowds, they are relatively safe. It's hard to believe that it is much more of a challenge to take my kids on base.

It is shocking to me that I cannot recall a time when I've gone to the Townhouse for lunch with my kids and haven't had to shield them from offensive language from the mouths of young soldiers. Kids know Burger King offers the best toys with their kids' meals. That area of the dining facility is secluded from the rest. During the lunch rush is the worst. It infuriates me that I have to protect my kids from this.

I've addressed individuals, and usually receive a very polite apology. But then the next bunch approach.

Sitting far away from that area helps. But you have to order and wait for your food. When your kids are under 5, seating them in the main dining area is not an option because you cannot see them.

In addition, the geniuses at our Army Air Force Exchange Services stores on Yongsan Garrison's South Post have reorganized our DVD/video section to be kid-unfriendly. The children's selections are facing the drama section. Last month, a young female soldier (in uniform, no less) was telling another uniformed soldier how [expletive] stupid some movie she bought was, how it was a piece of [expletive], and how [expletive] unrealistic the actors looked with each other. My daughter wanted the new "Angelina Ballerina" DVD. We were two feet away.

The reality is that whether it be at the AAFES facilities, the movie theater, or the movie theater and Burger King on Main Post, you cannot escape the mindless profanity. In this day and age of progressively acceptable crudeness, it is still appalling to me that the only guarantee of protection for my kids would be earplugs.

Perhaps the newcomers' briefings are not the place to insert this topic, but someday they need to find a place for it. More or less the young people don't realize how offensive, rude and disrespectful they are being to the generations to come (it's not just me ask just about anyone with small kids). The soldiers I've confronted may be more careful in the future. Bless them for that.

However, this old song should be music for the masses. When we want a piece of home, it's not like we have all world of options to choose from.

Diane Weston

Yongsan, South Korea

Lunar New Year no ordinary day

I am deeply outraged at the person or people who made the decision to force students to go to school on Lunar New Year, as well as make it a workday for their parents. I have no idea why Americans can't celebrate Lunar New Year, which is a very important Korean holiday and a part of celebrating the Korean people.

For me, I have Korean relatives, as do

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many of the students at my school. I hoped there would be a day off that coincided with Lunar New Year, just like last year. Now I have to go to school on this special holiday instead of spending time with family and friends. When I asked others about Lunar New Year, they too did not understand why there is work and school on that day.

The person or people responsible for this decision also should have been responsible for informing the community of the reason for this ill-considered decision. All American installations on the Korean peninsula affected by this decision should receive an apology from the people responsible. Lunar New Year, as well as the Korean Thanksgiving (Chusok), should never be interfered with by people who know little about the Korean culture.

Sara Jones

Yongsan Garrison, South Korea

Just 'lump it' is no solution

Although I did not read William Johnson's Jan. 31 letter ("Curfew infringes on rights"), I feel compelled to respond to the criticism of it by Floyd Jack ("Writer's argument falls down in Feb. 9").

First, I would really like to know who informed Jack that the U.S. Constitution does not protect him while he is abroad. It is accepted that on foreign soil one cannot expect the host government to waive its sovereignty and be compelled to comply with the U.S. Constitution when conducting its business.

However, we are not talking about the Republic of Korea stepping on the rights of American citizens. We are talking about the government of our own country, and the Constitution does protect against this, regardless of one's location on the world map.

Quite simply, Jack is absolutely wrong. The Constitution is applicable to the way the United States deals with its citizens, regardless of their location. To think otherwise is totally absurd.

Next, why should we just "lump it"? What if James Madison, Thomas Jefferson and John Hancock had just said, "You know, these policies being imposed by the crown are wrong, but hey, let's just lump it"? Thankfully, they had the courage, gumption and fortitude to stand up and say their government was wrong.

Because of this, we now have the right to publish this newspaper and Jack has the right to pen his letter. It is this "just lump it" apathy and lack of knowledge about their own Constitution that makes some members of our society not only free riders but liabilities to freedom and assets to tyranny.

How many of us raised our hands and swore to defend the U.S. Constitution? Did Jack bother to read it?

Alan Lautinger

Osan Air Base, South Korea

Put financial responsibility first

Just a short comment on the service-members death gratuity and insurance payment plans: I totally agree with raising the benefit payments, but only to a degree. Somewhere along the way, individuals must accept responsibility for taking care of their own families. The obligation for military members to provide for their families should not be a burden; after all, it is their family, not the government's family. Expecting the government to take care of all your personal obligations is a lazy attitude that does not reflect the American spirit, and that spirit is what makes the United States special.

The Sept. 11 survivor benefit payments were an insult to the military in that the payments reflected the emotional stress associated with a sudden catastrophic event, and seemed to ignore the pain and frustration from military losses. Our legislators are now trying to change the death gratuity to make it more equitable, but they appear to be struggling, again, with a disproportionate sense of fairness.

Part of the difficulty is, since most of them have not served, their guilt makes them want to overcompensate those who have suffered as a result of it. And maybe that is not all bad.

The government's attempt to ease the burden of sending young troops to war does not lessen the responsibilities of "planned parenthood" Servicemembers, especially in today's environment, must make sure they have made special provisions for their families, and should not rely on the government to relieve them of their responsibilities. It only takes a little bit of time to educate your spouse on the death benefits she/he can expect if you don't make it back. Placing your spouse in a stressful situation where she/he has to understand the benefits piece after a loss has learned of your demise is a terrible, terrible thing to do to someone you love.

Yes, war is a horrible thing, but in combat a person must be prepared to die every day. Being prepared also means making sure your family can continue if the worst happens.

Clifton Jester

Kadena Air Base, Okinawa

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury



OPINION

Neither party will halt era of big government

Less than a decade ago, President Clinton declared that "the era of big government is over." Clinton didn't mean it, of course. But now we know that the Republicans who cheered Clinton's words of Jan. 27, 1996, didn't really mean to end big government either.

Back then Clinton was describing a proposed federal budget of \$1.64 trillion. [Last week], President Bush proposed a budget that spends \$2.57 trillion. And yet even that enormous sum doesn't include the costs of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, currently running about \$80 billion a year. Nor does it include any so-called transition costs for a partial privatization of Social Security.

Meanwhile, reports suggest that the new prescription drug benefit might cost \$1.2 trillion over the coming decade, triple the \$400 billion projected by the White House when the benefit was enacted in 2003. For its part, the administration says that the \$1.2 trillion figure is too high; it estimates the cost of the benefit as "only" \$720 billion. But even if that lower figure proves true, the drug program's cost will have soared 80 percent more than two years — and that's before it's even begun.

The point is that nobody really knows the true burden of these open-ended entitlement programs. The safe assumption is that government subsidy programs rather upward, not downward.

We might consider, as a cautionary tale, the fate of agriculture spending over the past decade. In 1996, a conservative Republican, espousing a libertarian line, persuaded Clinton to sign the Freedom From Act, targeting payments to farmers.

Then-Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich took credit for "ending the subsidies after 60 years."

It was a great idea; if the government is going to shrink, surely money to corporate farms should be shunk first.

But a funny thing happened on the way to small government. In the first year after the farm law passed, Department of Agriculture spending dipped a bit, from \$53.12 billion to \$49.55 billion. But then traditional farm-state bondholde politics kicked back in. By 2001, at the end of Clinton's presidency, USDA spending had jumped to \$74.8 billion. And at the end of Bush's first term, it jumped even higher, to \$93 billion.

But now, after overseeing a 24 percent increase in agriculture spending over the past four years, Bush pledges to reduce agricultural spending over the next four years. Do we have any reason, looking at the fiscal track record, to believe that will happen?

In fairness to Bush, we must say that the president shares control over spending with Congress. Sen. Thad Cochran of cotton-pickin' Mississippi, the third-ranking Republican on the Agriculture Committee — and, more to the point, the chairman of the all-powerful Appropriations Committee — reacted to The Washington Post's story about Bush's proposed Agriculture budget: "Frankly, I don't think anyone in the administration really thought Congress would go along with this."

And of course, the Democrats, as a party, have been running a domestic spending program they didn't want to increase. On Fox News, Sen. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., said flatly that the ultimate budget, as enacted,



would include domestic spending totals "not anywhere near what the president submitted to us." That is, the Democrats will tribute the administration's proposals as a floor, and build high from there.

Bush is likely to be OK with that. He was never part of the anti-government Republicanism of the Gingrich era. In 2000, he campaigned on a platform of "compassionate conservatism"; compassion, of course, being defined as greater gobs of government.

Indeed, Bush has never vetoed a single

bill from Congress.

So now we have what might be called "wartime conservatism." Bush reasons that at a time when he is fighting in two countries, this is a time for national unity — and national unity, like compassion, necessitates more federal largess for everyone, so that everyone feels included in Uncle Sam's porky hug.

So yes, big government is back, with red-inky vengeance. Although in truth, that era never really ended.

James Plickerton is a (New York) Newsday columnist.

In Europe, Rice re-employed pre-emptive intelligence

BY JOHN HALL
Media General

HER first trip abroad as secretary of state seems to have been a triumph for Condoleezza Rice, despite a couple of jarring moments for those who fear a wider American war in the Islamic world.

Rice, at 50, moved gracefully among mostly senior, mostly stouter and mostly male European leaders. They seemed charmed by her and they were able to put aside some of their past differences over the Iraq war, at least for now.

Rice didn't seem to mind a headline calling her "coquettish."

"I will do what I do," she told NBC News. "I'm a package. I'm who I am, and that includes being female."

If the package also includes a steel-magnolia mind, that is to the good. But some of her critics are wondering whether a new secretary of state on a fence-mending expedition should have been a little less tough.

Her predecessor, Colin Powell, had a way of calming down the continent even at the height of the storm over the Iraq invasion and the French-German refusal to back a United Nations resolution of support.

But Rice, on her first trip, seemed determined to stir up another hornet's nest. Get together on Iran, she warned the French, British and Germans, who are conducting slow-moving negotiations to prevent Iran's nuclear program from becoming a weapons program.

While setting no deadline, she said the talks could not go on forever and she warned that the United States would soon apply to the United Nations for sanctions on Iran. In the background, Vice President Dick Cheney has been giving interviews and

speeches warning that a nuclear-armed Iran would be intolerable.

Rice said attacking Iran was "not on the agenda at this point." The use of the words "at this point" implies that at some point it will be in order, and Rice, a Stanford scholar, is a woman who chooses words carefully.

That brought a swift rebuke from David Kay, an arms inspector who headed the search for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Writing in The Washington Post (the column appeared in Stars and Stripes' Feb. 9 edition), he saw an "eerie similarity" to the buildup toward trouble in Iran and the events that preceded the Iraq war.

In addition to Cheney's and Rice's remarks, a stream of reports from Iranian exiles has begun to appear about Iran's attempt to acquire nuclear weapons. And there are reports of U.S. covert surveillance activities in Iran.

It was Kay who told the Senate Armed Ser-

vices Committee that "we were almost all wrong" in concluding before the Iraq war that Iraq likely had weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons.

This time, the mistake should be avoided. A "cooked document to justify the threat of military action" should not be accepted from the intelligence community, he said. Any assessment of Iran's nuclear weapons capabilities should be led "by a team that is trying to prove a case for its boss."

These were powerful words from one of the nation's foremost scientists on weapons of mass destruction. Not long ago, President Bush and Rice, as his national security adviser, thought enough of Kay to put him in charge of the effort to find the weapons of mass destruction in Iraq after the fall of Baghdad.

The administration selected Kay because he was a hard-nosed arms control inspector who had been critical of U.N. inspectors for

not looking closely enough. But Kay and his survey group could find nothing because there was nothing. And when he told Congress that there had been a major intelligence failure before the invasion, it was a bitter moment of truth for the nation.

Kay says he is now hearing *déjà vu* sounds on Iran. What he doubts is not the danger of Iran having nuclear weapons, but "the ability of the U.S. government to honestly assess Iran's nuclear status." That is because the policy-makers appear still to be driving the intelligence.

A top-level independent commission is due to issue its report on the Iraqi intelligence failure soon. Whether or not mixing policy with intelligence will be part of its assessment of what went wrong isn't known. But Rice's statement on Iran sounds at this point like pre-emptive intelligence remains the practice.

John Hall is a senior Washington correspondent of Media General News Service.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Horoscope

The Taurus moon is a hungry moon filled with longing and desire.

But Mars and Uranus conspire to highlight our social conscience during the season of Lent. It's not so much about what we're giving up as about what could drop into the void of that loss. New reserves of energy open up, and something more positive can be planted into the space.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (February 15). You are wealthy in love.

The investment of quality time and affection that you put into friends and family yields the true gold, so don't bury yourself in work.

Romance thrives when there are challenging shared goals at stake.

Singles are infatuated and then get the prize in June. Some marry in July. Love signs are Scorpio and Aries. Your lucky numbers are: 20, 1, 12, 32 and 14.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

One-armed robots discovered last year that your ruling planet was likely wet enough to harbor life. And you'll discover today that your temper isn't as hot and uncontrollable as you thought — loved ones can actually live with it!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

When you look around you, you can't help but notice there are two types of people — those who have problems and those who somehow, miraculously, don't hang around the second group for good luck.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

Computers require periodic system upgrades, and your personal operating system needs an update once in a while, too. Review now. A new "program" will only work if you're willing to change something basic.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

Your connection with the moon makes you more sensitive than most — a fact that's so apparent now you'll wonder if you're even the same species as your fellow humans. You'll teach others compassion.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). A plan can be complex without being com-

pllicated. If you can't easily explain your intentions, perhaps they are still not clear to even you. Break your plan down to concise action steps. Share discoveries with a Taurus.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

Being a part of a supportive community is key to having a terrific life. You already contribute in some way, but how can you build more value into those contributions on a daily basis?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're probably tolerating more than you need to — I loved one. Dare to crack down on the rules of conduct.

Make it clear that there are behaviors you simply won't put up with anymore.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

Your old manner of dealing with stress isn't working so hot now. Time to change it up. It's a rare day when escapism and avoidance tactics may actually be the healthiest thing you can do.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

Something that occurs on the job begins an internal conversation between you and your critic. Boy, that critic can be mean! You wouldn't accept such language from others — and shouldn't accept it from yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

Your results are directly linked to your energy source. Being on a strict deadline may give you the adrenaline rush to get to the finish line, but how is the end product? Joyful creativity yields a better outcome.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

What you think is a light schedule is quite overwhelming to someone else. Your teammates need special care and specific instructions now if they are to keep up with you. Be patient, or go it alone.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

Just as fellow Pisces Albert Einstein's theory of relativity may have a glitch (as revealed by the super-strong gravity of a neutron star), your own theories could change due to the super-strong pull of an influential friend.

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Holiday Mathis



Calvin and Hobbes

Jump Start

Zits

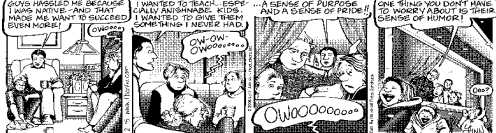
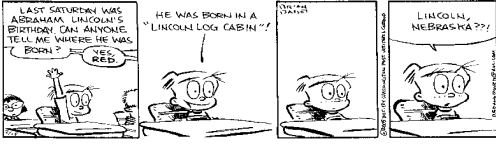
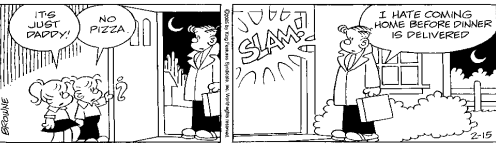
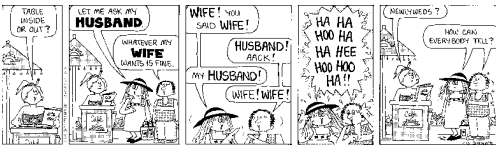
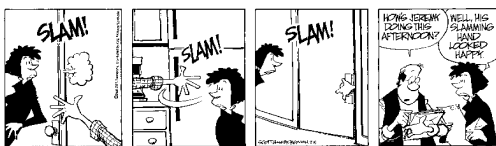
Cathy

Hi and Lois

Beetle Bailey

Red and Rover

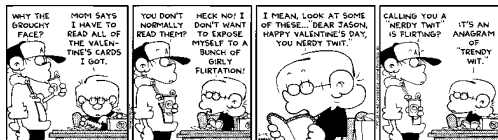
Better or Worse



Peanuts



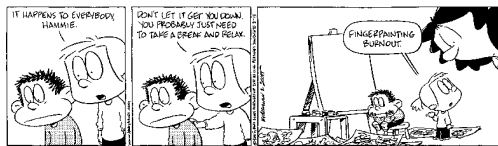
Foxrot



B.C.



Baby Bites



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



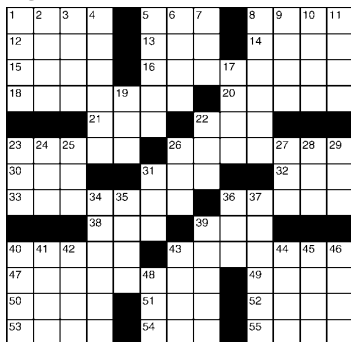
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Lovers recipe
- 5 Biz deg.
- 8 Differently
- 12 Bleacherties' choreography
- 13 Branch
- 14 "Diffrent Strokes" star Conrad
- 15 Figure-skating jump
- 16 Con
- 18 Hunter's companion
- 20 Staffers
- 21 Listening device
- 22 Hostel
- 23 Lightheartedly silly
- 26 "Consum it all"
- 30 Dined
- 31 Enjoyment
- 32 Deterioration
- 33 Turned, as milk
- 36 Chamer's snake
- 38 Clark or Rogers
- 39 In favor of
- 40 Plankton, in part
- 43 Fast traveler?
- 47 Bygone moviehouse offering
- 49 From square one
- 50 Dangling locale
- 51 "Of course"
- 52 Singer Turner
- 53 Straight flush, e.g.
- 54 Prior to
- 55 Vortex

Down

- 1 Mop
- 2 Cab
- 3 Incessantly
- 4 Used an acetylene torch
- 5 Main course of study
- 6 Boast
- 7 Parisian pal
- 8 In recession
- 9 Deposited
- 10 Paddock papa
- 11 Tackles' teammates
- 17 Singer k.d.
- 19 Rotation duration
- 22 Saturn auto model
- 23 Joke
- 24 Judge Lance
- 25 Hideaway
- 26 Flop
- 27 Scepter topper
- 28 Neither mate
- 29 Greek vowel
- 31 Across Way
- 34 Obliterated
- 35 Dutch South African
- 36 Massachusetts cape
- 37 Highly decorated
- 39 Perjurious
- 40 Egyptian cross
- 41 Home or Olin
- 42 Stefani of No Doubt
- 43 "Cheers" supply
- 44 Oklahoma city
- 45 Make one's way
- 46 Vacillate
- 48 Keep tabs on

Answer to Previous Puzzle



2-15

CRYPTOQUIP

ECW UNLJ RPMXPBX
VDBRW JRHNZEDPXWNJZL
R UNXJJ EYXL CXVX WP EYX
JDHX CDMXZXXPUEY

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Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals S

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 dock cooler. Used twice, 6 1/2
 quart pot, 10 lbs. and case for
 carrying too for me. Call or
 email: 646-2114 /
 3212arlene@msn.com

Forster, Oklahoma - Household
 Appliances For Sale: Mrs. Tina
 1992, 1992, 1992, 1992, 1992,
 Decker Duster \$20, space
 rack \$20, 30 qt. glass pitcher
 size \$12, & Green, static
 electric iron. Call 646-4274 or
 e-mail: subulym@yahoo.com

Forster, Oklahoma - Sunbeam
 Stand Mixer, used only once,
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 appliances, grassy machine \$75.
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 shellm@iath.com for picture.

Kadoma, Oklahoma - Small
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 in a few months and need to get
 rid of some weight. Call
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 Dishwasher, Works Excellent.
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 Picking Part \$10.00. Sell for
 \$75.000. Email for pictures
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 Stand up hummer, very
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Atsugi - 1993 Nissan Cedric
 3.0 3.0 0.0 C/O: Call
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 rack \$20, 30 qt. glass pitcher
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 e-mail: subulym@yahoo.com

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 Stand Mixer, used only once,
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Announcements 040

Forster, Oklahoma - Household
 Appliances For Sale: Mrs. Tina
 1992, 1992, 1992, 1992, 1992,
 Decker Duster \$20, space
 rack \$20, 30 qt. glass pitcher
 size \$12, & Green, static
 electric iron. Call 646-4274 or
 e-mail: subulym@yahoo.com

Forster, Oklahoma - Sunbeam
 Stand Mixer, used only once,
 paid \$85 brand new. Must get
 it off \$40. 646-5510 or
 andrew@bass.mtsd.net

Kadoma, Oklahoma - Household
 appliances, grassy machine \$75.
 Call 632-5133 or e-mail:
 shellm@iath.com for picture.

Kadoma, Oklahoma - Small
 electric fan in excellent
 working condition, and used one
 in a few months and need to get
 rid of some weight. Call
 632-3488 anytime.

Kadoma, Oklahoma - Whirlpool
 Dishwasher, Works Excellent.
 A MUST SELL, for
 Picking Part \$10.00. Sell for
 \$75.000. Email for pictures
 please: bates.medi@net.net or call
 633-1293.

Kadoma, Texas - Two Outdoor
 barbecues, bought at Foster for
 \$200 each. Good condition,
 materials included. Asking \$150
 each. Call 632-5133.

Sagehen, Idaho - Hummer-A
 Stand up hummer, very
 good condition, and used one
 summer 87. Call Richard at
 207-6468, if at home, leave a
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Autos for Sale - Japan 146
 Atsugi - 1992 Toyota Auto: V-6
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CLASSIFIED

Furniture 510

Zuma - Sectional couch for sale as is. Brown leather with remove the back pillows in various colors. pattern on back. no stains or holes in leather. \$1300. Contact Kate 823-7771.

Household Items 550

Aweide, China - Set of 48 drinking glasses, 4 pieces glass engraved with the letter P for \$50.00. Call Dennis 959-8883.

Jewelry 610

Agam, China - Diamond wedding set size 4, 1/2 carat pear diamond ring, 14K gold, set with 14K gold. \$1500. Call Dennis 959-8883.

House Electronics 570

Foster, China - Sony 70" TV with remote & entertainment center that fits perfect. TV in good shape make a boomer when turned on but can't picture. Take one like both. \$1500. Call Dennis 959-8883.

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Jobs Offered 630

Are you interested in supporting military history not just reading about it?

Stars and Stripes, a first amendment newspaper, is the pinnacle of a military's career. A tour with us can help you move up in your military career and prepare you for your career after the military. Contact your detailer for information on how you can be a part of the military's best news provider or email Lt Col Todd at todd@sptrides.osd.mil. Stars and Stripes is a DOD field office of the Office of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs.

Openings include:

- 1 USMC Tokyo (Immediate Vacancy)
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Reservists:

All branches S&S bureaus (Immediate Vacancy)

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A very progressive International Life Insurance Company has a unique product for Military and Federal employees. Need representatives in Okinawa and Mainland Japan.

We are offering a very unique product with a side fund (Accumulation Fund) that has averaged over 11% tax deferred over 25 years. This same fund has a minimum guarantee of never paying less than 4%. An excellent way to save and accumulate \$\$.

Very generous commission, advances on Commission.

This unique product is especially suited for the Military and Federal Employee make. Please email Mickey Howard at: MickeyHoward@hotmail.com

Jobs Offered 630

Computer Employment

CSC Systems Corporation is hiring for a HVAC person to work direction with the US Army Aviation/Transportation full and part motion specialists.

We are looking for a candidate that has 5 years of experience in troubleshooting, installation and repair of HVAC in simulator trailers and government owned vehicles.

The position is located in Korea. Good benefit package. Dress code, EEO/AAE/ADA.

For resume, salary history and cover letter to:

Fax 321-239-8253 or email to sydjordan@icloud.com

Pets 820

Butler - 1 year old Black female

Shelter with papers. JCR registered. All drops up to date. Fully vaccinated. Very playful. Trainable, and good with children. \$600.00 or best offer. \$525.00. Call 823-5278

Pets 820

Foster - 1 month old JCR boxer

For sale. \$400.00 or best offer. \$250.00. Call 823-5278

Pets 820

Katrina - 6 month old

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Lester - Free liveable rabbit

comes with everything you need to raise a rabbit. \$150.00 or best offer. \$100.00. Call 823-5278

Pets 820

Pet Accessories - Large

black cat. \$150.00 or best offer. \$100.00. Call 823-5278

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FACES

'Medicine Woman' relieves 'alien' status

Actress **Jane Seymour** waved a small U.S. flag and cheered after she and about 9,000 other immigrants became citizens.

The British-born actress, best known for her TV series "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman," said she's been living in the United States since 1976.

"I've realized that I've been living here longer than in my home country. America has given me unbelievable opportunities," she said. "I realized that with the U.S. elections I wanted to vote, and I couldn't. I felt the time had come to participate more fully."

Her sons, 9-year-old twins **John** and **Kristopher**, said they were excited to see their mom become a U.S. citizen. "She's not an alien anymore," John said.

Cartoonist's fall gets big laughs

Cartoonist **Garry Trudeau** didn't let a skiing accident — and a broken collar bone — get in the way of a good award.

The "Doonesbury" creator suffered the mishap on Aspen, Colo.'s ski slopes Thursday, leaving U.S. Comedy Arts Festival organizers scrambling to find a way to proceed with Friday's show, in which Trudeau was given a Freedom of Speech Award.

At Trudeau's suggestion, the award ceremony was revamped to work in his injury — with emergency medical technicians carrying him in on a gurney.

"He did it lying down, in the gurney, it worked out great," said the event's executive producer **Pat Tourk Lee**.

The Freedom of Speech Award acknowledges artists who speak out on social issues despite challenges. Past recipients include **Michael Moore**, **George Carlin** and **Dick Gregory**.

Hip-hop queen's logo loses to real queen

Missy Elliott's street wear collection hit a snag in Denmark — its logo was a bit too similar to that of the country's queen.

Clothing maker Adidas-Salomon AG withdrew the line from Danish stores after the royal court said the logo infringed on **Queen Margrethe II**'s copyright.

The shoes, bags and shirts in the collection carry a logo that consists of a crown on top of the words "Respect" and Missy Elliott's initials "M.E." The queen's logo consists of a crown on top of the letters "M-Z-R," with the "R" standing for the Latin word for queen, *regina*.

Adidas spokeswoman **Margaret Sap** said the company agreed to remove the clothing from Danish stores, and that the similarity was a coincidence.

"It came as a surprise to us, the logo merely had the crown to signal that Missy Elliott is the queen of hip-hop," Sap said of the three-time Grammy Award winner.

Stone teams up to help disaster victims

Sharon Stone and **Denise Rich** are producing a song to benefit victims of the Dec. 26 tsunami disaster in Asia.

The "Basic Instinct" actress and the socialite-songwriter are co-writing a single, "Come Together Now," to be sung by a collection of recording artists in the style of the 1985 song "We Are the World," which raised funds for Africa.

Aretha Franklin, **Lindsay Lohan**, **Natalie Cole**, **Wyke J. Jean**, **Peter Dinklage**, **Pat LaBelle**, **Lionel Richie**, **Mya**, **JoJo**, **Gavin DeGraw**, **Brian McKnight**, **Kelly Price** and **Paulina Rubio** are among those scheduled to participate, it was announced Friday.

At least one other single is in the works to aid the tsunami victims: **Sharon Osbourne**, wife of rocker **Ozzy Osbourne**, and **Stewart**, **Gwen Stefani** and others for a cover of **Eric Clapton**'s "Tears in Heaven."

Stories and photos from wire services



What's the 'Hot Fuss' about?

With Grammy nods and a smash debut album, the Killers cut out own slice of the rock scene

BY CHELSEA J. CARTER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK

The Killers' lead singer looks like he stepped out of a 1980s time warp with the eyeliner, the pressed suit and tie and the lipstick, er, lip gloss.

Even the band's debut album, "Hot Fuss," is a bit of a throwback, combining 1980s pop sensibilities with today's rock sound. And that's just the way the band intends it, says frontman **Brandon Flowers**.

"We see ourselves in the same vein as a lot of bands out there right now. But our goal ... right out of the chute, was to take it to a different level," he said.

"I'm not saying we're going to do it. But that's what we've set out to do."

It's an effort that appears to have helped propel the band up the charts and garnered the quintet three Grammy nominations, including one for rock album and rock song for their danceable hit "Somebody Told Me."

Formed in 2002, the Killers took its name from the New Order video "Crystal," which featured a fake band named the Killers — a supposedly perfect band with a great song, good looks and youth on its side. Turns out, it may be a case of reality following in the footsteps of art with the Las Vegas quintet of Flowers, guitarist **David Keuning**, bassist **Mark Stoermer** and drummer **Ronnie Vannucci**.

A year later, the band had a deal with an independent English label and was touring nonstop. Within months, the Killers caught the attention of major labels, eventually signing with the Island Def Jam Music Group.

Since then, Flowers' face has been splashed across magazines and the band has appeared on NBC's "Tonight" show and Fox's "The O.C."

But Flowers, 23, seems to be taking it in stride, careful not to take anything for granted in an unpredictable business.

AP: You've only really been at it together a few years. Are you surprised by the quick success?

Flowers: We feel very lucky. There are a lot of talented bands out there ... There's so much to do with luck. I feel like we're a good band. But there are a lot of good bands out there and bands that are similar to us. It's just kind of

right places and right times kind of thing I think.

AP: You said earlier the Killers wanted to take it to a different level?

Flowers: Joy Division was a great band. But U2 and the Cure took that to another level and made it not only radio friendly but they kept their dignity intact. We want to be one of those bands that people are into but also has written some great songs. And radio is changing. The Strokes and the White Stripes have all done a very good job. But they haven't broken the doors open.

AP: Isn't that a tall order for a band?

Flowers: Yeah. Radio is changing and it's by no means just because of us. It's us and Franz Ferdinand and the Yeah Yeah Yeahs and a lot of other great bands. We're just happy to be part of the change that's happening.

AP: So what inspired "Somebody Told Me"?

Flowers: I love the play on words. I think of it as a great icebreaker. I think of it as the ultimate pickup line. If I was a girl I would think that it's very clever, if a boy came up to me and said that to me.

AP: Have you used that line?

Flowers: No. But I hope somebody does. I think the girl would melt?

AP: Or freak out?

Flowers: No, not freak out. It would be funny, and it would be a great way to break the ice. Oh, I don't know. It's our most lighthearted, most Las Vegas song. It's good, clean fun.

AP: Yet your band doesn't really give off that Las Vegas feel?

Flowers: A lot of people think we do and I don't get it. But then a lot of people also think we just rip off English bands. We just try to be us and write our songs.

AP: At some point, the band had to make a decision about its musical approach, right?

Flowers: Well, sort of. These are the songs that we did. We didn't really throw anything away because it didn't sound like us. We haven't had anything like that. We love different kinds of music, so our album is pretty diverse.

AP: Where do you go from here? What do you do next?

Flowers: We hit you harder with our next single ("Mr. Brightside") and then we hit you harder again with all these things that we've done. And then we win.



War Is Tough on Families

Military life has enough challenges without worrying about how your loved ones will contact you... especially during times of conflict. I know, because I grew up in a military family and served as a Navy Admiral.

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Marsha Evans
President and CEO, American Red Cross
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)



**American
Red Cross**

Together, we can save a life

Johnson hoots on for Shootout win

Jarrett takes pole for Daytona

By MIKE HARRIS

The Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — A victory in Saturday night's Budweiser Shootout revived the season's momentum that came so close to giving Jimmie Johnson a NASCAR Nextel Cup title in 2004 and has made him the favorite going into this season.

"This is a great shot in the arm for Hendrick Motorsports," Johnson said after leading the final 16 laps of the non-points event at Daytona International Speedway. "A lot of work goes into this over the winter and this win will put a smile on everybody's face and make all those hours they put in worthwhile."

The driver who finished second to Kurt Busch by just eight points last year — the closest margin in stock car history — took the lead 16 laps from the end of the 70-lap Shootout and held off a pack of charging challengers to the end.

"Of course, this win doesn't really prove anything," said Johnson, who has been the series runner-up each of the last two seasons. "Until you have that trophy in your house, it doesn't mean much. But we've won on short tracks and intermediate tracks and this is our first win on a plate track."

Daytona is one of only two NASCAR tracks where horsepower-sapping carburetor restrictor plates are required to keep the Cup cars under 200 mph.

Ryan Newman grabbed a big lead when he took only two fresh tires on the required pit stop in the second segment of the made-for-TV race. But Johnson,

with four new tires, was the next fastest driver out of the pits, getting out ahead of early leader Greg Biffle, who appeared to have the fastest car on the track most of the night.

But it was Johnson who tracked down Newman in just eight laps on the 2½-mile oval. He charged past Newman's Dodge on lap 55, pulling Biffle, Busch and Hendrick Motorsports teammate Jeff Gordon along with him.

"Really, at the end, it mattered most who came out first on that pit stop, and my guys got it done on pit road and got us out ahead of [Biffle]," Johnson said. "He had a great car and when he was leading I really couldn't get a run on him. I knew that once I got into the lead he wasn't going to be able to get around me. It's just too hard to pass the leader."

While Johnson's No. 48 Chevrolet held the lead, the action behind him was furious in the closing laps, with Newman making a great move, diving low into the first turn three laps from the end to pass Biffle and Gordon and grab second place.

Newman credited the two-tire call to crew chief Matt Borland and said that despite the fact it didn't earn him a win it was the reason he wound up second.

"I think it was a good call. It put us in a situation in which we could have won and it turned out pretty good for us," the Penske Racing South driver said. "We didn't have anybody to go with, so we're tough, so we couldn't stay out there."

Gordon, who had taken second place away from Biffle on lap 66, was shuttled back to sixth on the



NEXTel Cup driver Jimmie Johnson celebrates after winning the Budweiser Shootout at Daytona International Speedway on Saturday.

next lap, but came back to finish third. Tony Stewart wound up fourth, followed by Biffle, Busch, Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Mark Martin.

The victory came in Johnson's third start in the non-points race for last year's pole winners and

former Shootout champions. Earnhardt, whose history in the Shootout includes a win in 2003, two runner-up finishes and a sixth, started 12th and began to struggle with an electrical problem midway through the 20-lap opening segment.

Mickelson cruises to 7-stroke lead at Pebble Beach

The Associated Press

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — Phil Mickelson finally found a situation to tone down his attacking style.

With a dominant performance not seen on the Monterey Peninsula since Tiger Woods won the U.S. Open, Mickelson blew the three-course tournament at Pebble Beach National Pro-Am with a 5-under 67, giving him a seven-shot lead and a tournament record for the third straight day.

Despite 24 victories on the PGA Tour, Lefty has never had a lead this huge. "I don't want to do anything stupid," Mickelson said. "But I don't want to play defensive, either."

Then again ... "With this many strokes, I also can take a few chances, too," Mickelson said with a playful grin. "Maybe I might hit driver in certain spot that I wouldn't otherwise, because I'm OK if I happen to have a penalty shot or what have you. So it might lead to some different play. We'll see."

Either way, it appears his final round could be nothing more than a walk along the beach.

Mickelson rapped in a 5-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole at Pebble Beach to finish the three-course tournament at 20 under 19, breaking by two shots the 54-hole scoring record set by David Duval in 1997. All he needs to do Sunday is shoot anything under par to break the 72-hole tournament

record that Mark O'Meara set that year. Only an eagle by Greg Owen kept Mickelson's lead from being even larger.

Owen, a 32-year-old from England who made it through all three stages of Q-school last year, hit a 4-iron into 12 feet on the par-3 18th at Poppy Hills for a 67. He had no idea the size of Mickelson's lead until informed by reporters, and it didn't take long for him to realize the size of his task.

"You've just got to make birdie on every hole," Owen said.

Mickelson's seven-shot lead was the largest on the PGA Tour since David Tom's lead by the same margin last year in Memphis, and it had the same feel as Woods' record-setting performance at Pebble in the 2000 U.S. Open, when he took a 10-shot lead into the final round and won by 15.

Miyazato leads Japan to World Cup win

GEORGE, South Africa — Teenage sensation Ai Miyazato continued her emergence as a star on Sunday, shooting a 6-under 67 in difficult conditions on the Links Course at Fancourt to lead Japan to a two-shot victory in the Women's World Cup.

A five-time winner as a 19-year-old rookie on the Japan LPGA Tour, Miyazato was 10 shots behind the average score in the final round of stroke play, in which nine of the 40 women failed to break 80.

Her teammate, Riri Kitadani, had an 82 to give Japan a 2-over 149.

They finished at 23 under 289 after both made birdie on the par-3 17th to surge past South Korea and the Philippines. U.S. Women's Open champion Meg Mall-

on and Hall of Famer Beth Daniel had 78-80 as the United States finished 14th in the 20-team field, 12 shots behind.

Japan squandered a six-shot lead on the back nine at Fancourt, site of the 2003 Presidents Cup. But Miyazato and Kitadani came through on the treacherous par-3 17th, which features bunkers to the right of the deep, narrow green, and an 8-foot trench that runs along the left side.

Miyazato hit her tee shot within 2 feet, and Kitadani holed a 10 in the 51 million event.

This was the first Women's World Cup since 2000. Jennifer Rosales shot 71, one of only four rounds under par, and Dorothy Delasin added a 75 as the Philippines tried to rally. Jeong Jang (74) and Bo Beo Song (75) of South Korea also were tied for the lead until Japan's late heroics on the 17th.

Fasth earns second European tour title

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Sweden's Niclas Fasth won the New Zealand Open on Sunday for his second European tour title, beating England's Miles Tunnicliffe with a 15-foot birdie putt on the second hole of a playoff.

Fasth, also the 2000 Madeira Island Open winner, closed with a 9-under 63 to match Tunnicliffe (66) at 22-under 266 on the Gulf Harbour course. Tunnicliffe made a 20-foot birdie putt on the final hole of regulation to force the playoff.

After opening with rounds of 65 and 63, Fasth overcame a third-round 75 to win his second European tour title. The 32-year-old Swede, a member of the 2002 European Ryder Cup team, had an eagle and seven birdies in his bogey-free final round.

Australians Richard Green (68) and Simon Nash (67) tied for third at 18 under.

Golf roundup

Germans surprise lead in nations team event

By ERICA BULMAN
The Associated Press

BORMIO, Italy — There were two surprises Sunday during the new team event at the Alpine Skiing World Championships.

The first was the winner, underdog Germany, which had failed to claim a single medal until then. The second was how popular and exciting the prototype final turned out to be.

The dominant Austrians and Americans were billed as the heavy favorites leading up to the inaugural team contest, so it came as a jolt when the lowly Germans made up for their dismal showing the past two weeks by snatching the last title of the championship with 26 points.

The Austrians humbly took silver — their 11th medal — with 29 points and France happily claimed their first medal of the championships, edging the Americans for bronze with 38.

"It was very important for the German Ski Federation to win this medal today," said German team veteran Hilde Gerg, who'd collected five medals at previous Olympic and world championships but none of them gold.

"We have a very good team. Sometimes maybe we're not so lucky, but the team is very good. It's a small team."

The atmosphere of fun, Florian Eckert, Martina Ertl, Andreas Ertl and Gerg delivered steady runs in the morning super-G to put Germany in the lead, as the large crowds reacted enthusiastically each time the Germans were updated on a screen at the finish.

Germans remained atop the standings throughout the slalom portion, following a third place by Martina Ertl in the opening

women's slalom run and a first place for Felix Neureuther. Monika Bergmann-Schmuderer clinched the gold by posting the fastest time in the third of the four slalom series.

"This is a dream," said Bergmann-Schmuderer, soaked in champagne. "Everything today unfolded super well. Winning the gold medal before running the last series was really great."

After Michael Walchhofer and Benjamin Raich led Austria to provisional second place following the super-G, the fight for silver went down to the men's final slalom run, with individual slalom silver medalist Rainer Schoenfelder clinching it for Austria.

"At the end it was a hard competition," Schoenfelder said. "It would be a bad thing if the competition would be easy for one nation, say for example. But these rules make it not too easy for Austria."

"As you see, Germany won the race and I think this is possible for every nation. It really depends on every racer finishing and with a good time."

It was a fifth medal and a new experience for Raich, who won the slalom and combined, taking silver in the giant slalom and bronze in the super-G.

The men and the women are not very often together," Raich said. "It's good for the team spirit."

Many had scoffed when the new team event was unveiled, arguing it was too complicated for spectators to understand, too late in the championships and too team-oriented in what is a highly individual sport.

Nations named six skiers to their team and then chose four — two men and two women — to race one super-G run each and four — two men and two women — for the slalom.



Benjamin Raich of Austria, left, shakes hands with American Bode Miller during the nations team event at the World Alpine Ski Championships, in Bormio, Italy, Sunday.

A points ranking system determined the winning nation after the total of eight runs for each team.

Sweden missed out on one of the men's super-G runs after misunderstanding the competition's qualifying criteria.

The United States learned that consistency was as important as spectacular individual results.

Newly crowned downhill and super-G champion Bode Miller and Daron Rahvles carried the team to a provisional fourth place in the morning's super-G, posting the two fastest times while Lindsey Kildow and double bronze medalist Julia Mancuso failed to finish.

But Miller once again self-destructed in the slalom, missing in gate on the upper part of the course. Miller has failed to finish seven of eight slalom races this season, including Sunday's world championship race.

Sweden had a disastrous super-G session in the morning, languishing at the bottom of the provisional rankings after Anja Persson, Patrick Jaerby and Janette Hagrin all failed to finish.

The Swedes were unable to make up much ground in the slalom, and ended up seventh with 48 points.

While nine teams entered, nations like Croatia and Finland couldn't because of an insufficient number of qualified super-G skiers.

"What we've been able to see is the event has great potential," said FIS Secretary-General Sarah Lewis. "You only have to look at the teams. They all entered their top skiers."

"I've already spoke to the Finns on how they're going to build their team to be able to participate in 2007. The Norwegians as well."

Patriots promote Mangini

The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. — The New England Patriots promoted Eric Mangini to defensive coordinator Saturday, succeeding new Cleveland Browns coach Romeo Crennel.

Mangini, who was the Patriots' defensive backfield coach, was promoted by Crennel and the Miami Dolphins.

But Patriots coach Bill Belichick, playing at the Pebble Beach National Golf tournament in California, told CBS-TV on Saturday that Mangini was taking over for Crennel.

"He's done a great job for us with the secondary," Belichick said. "[He has] big shoes to fill with Romeo, but Eric's a great young coach. He's been with me for a long time, he's done a great job for our football team for the last five years."

Mangini has been credited with helping the Patriots' defense backfield overcome injuries to starting players in the team's push to their third Super Bowl victory in four years.

In a statement released by the team, Mangini said he is thrilled to be staying with the Patriots.

"The Kraft family and Bill Belichick have treated me tremendously," he said. "This team and our players are a special group and mean a great deal to me. I look forward to putting this process behind and focusing on our offense and the new challenges ahead."

The 34-year-old Mangini has been on the Patriots' defensive staff since 2000.

Former ski champ Johnson charged with assault

PORTLAND, Ore. — Olympic ski champion Bill Johnson was charged with assaulting an officer and resisting arrest during a traffic stop, police said.

Johnson, 44, was stopped in his pickup truck Friday by a Multnomah County sheriff's deputy and a suburban Troutdale police officer. When the officers approached, Johnson pulled out his 1984 gold medal and taunted them by saying, "You don't have one of these."

Authorities said Johnson threw his keys at Deputy Jeff Cordes, reached out his window, grabbed the deputy's shirt and punched him in the face. Johnson then refused to obey orders to exit the vehicle and lie on the ground.

Johnson has been charged

with assaulting an officer, resisting arrest and driving while intoxicated. He remained jailed Saturday night, and was being held until arraignment Monday. Bail was set at \$17,500.

Hours later, when an officer tried to interview Johnson in jail, he lunged at the officer, grabbed him by the vest and tried to hit him, said Lt. Bruce McCain of the sheriff's office.

The 1984 Olympic downhill champion, Johnson attempted a comeback to compete in the Salt Lake City Games. But he suffered a brain injury during his training run in March 2001 and was in a coma for three weeks.

Larkin retires, joins Nationals

WASHINGTON — Shortstop Barry Larkin, a 12-time all-star who spent his entire 19-year career with the Cincinnati Reds, has retired and joined the Washington Nationals in their front office as a special assistant.

"Just felt it was time," Larkin said Sunday from his home in Orlando, Fla. "I had some opportunities with other teams to play, but I didn't feel that I could make the commitment as a player with another team."

Over 2,180 games, he hit 295 with 441 doubles, 76 triples, 198 home runs, 960 RBIs and 379 stolen bases.

Gag order lifted, but no progress in NHL lockout

By IRA DOBELL
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Neither the NHL nor the players' union did anything Saturday to avert a deadline that had ticked down to its last 24 hours for saying what little remained of the season.

A cancellation announcement could come as early as Monday, making the NHL the first major North American sports league to lose an entire season to a labor dispute.

"It's not an issue that needs to be decided in advance," NHL chief legal officer Bill Daly told The Associated Press. "It doesn't have to be decided until Monday morning."

There was no contact on Saturday between the sides, who have held to vows not to reach out to the other since talks broke off Thursday. NHL commissioner Gary Bettman said if a new collective bargaining agreement wasn't being written by this weekend, there would not be time to have an abbreviated season.

The NHL sent a memo to its 30 clubs on Friday, allowing them to contact players — something that was forbidden in the lockout that has gone on for five months, Daly

told The Associated Press on Saturday.

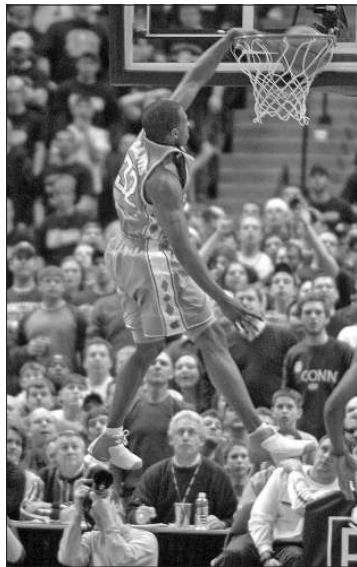
If enough anxious players call NHLPA executive director Bob Goodenow, it could pressure him to seek a last-minute deal. But Daly said he didn't expect the union to return to the bargaining table.

The NHL memo also allows team representatives to speak publicly about the lockout without being subject to significant fines. In October, Steve Belkin, one of the Atlanta Thrashers' owners, was ordered to pay \$250,000 for saying the league would use replacement players next year if a new collective bargaining agreement isn't reached.

"The memo did not encourage club executives to reach out to the players or the media, it just allowed them more flexibility in responding to questions on those matters," Daly said. "The timing obviously relates to the imminent cancellation of the season."

So, Sunday will be a key day in the lockout that has lasted 150 days and claimed \$24 of the 1,230 regular-season games of this weekend's All-Star festivities.

"I still hold out some hope something might get done the next few days," Philadelphia Flyers chairman Ed Snider said.



North Carolina's C.J. Hooker dunks in the second half as the Tar Heels pull away from Connecticut at Hartford, Conn. Carolina won 77-70.

Heels finish well to beat Huskies

BY JIM O'CONNELL
The Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — Minutes after their latest victory, the North Carolina Tar Heels were still talking about their last loss.

Rashad McCants and Raymond Felton had big second halves Sunday to help No. 2 North Carolina beat No. 19 Connecticut 77-70.

That was the Tar Heels' first game since Wednesday night's 71-70 loss at No. 7 Duke, a game that ended with North Carolina failing to get off a shot on its last possession.

"Needless to say, we feel a heck of a lot better than we did Wednesday night," North Carolina coach Roy Williams said. "I talked a great deal about getting that bad taste out of my mouth. We did some nice things today."

Like take over in the second half on both ends of the court.

McCants had 11 of his 15 points in the second half for North Carolina, while Felton had 14 of his 16 points and seven of his 10 assists in the final 20 minutes.

The Tar Heels committed only four turnovers in the second half while forcing the Huskies into 13 of their 22.

"We gave in to dark defense. We came apart," Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun said. "We weren't mentally tough enough to

stay in our offense and the turnovers led to fast-break baskets."

And it was McCants, Felton and classmate Sean May, who had 16 points and 13 rebounds, who made the difference.

The performances by the junior stars enabled the Tar Heels (20-3) to leave the Hartford Civic Center with smiles on their faces instead of the stunned looks they were following the last-play breakdown at Duke.

"It's big. It just shows how much more mature we are as a team and it showed our will," Felton said. "We just came off a loss. Everybody was still kind of upset about the situation, but we had to come out and play against a big-time team in a big-time place."

Marcus Williams had 18 points for the Huskies (15-6), who had won three straight.

Connecticut led 34-31 after a first half that was played at the pace the Huskies were looking for. The second half was more to the liking of the Tar Heels, who lead the nation in scoring at 91.2 points per game.

Felton hit a three-pointer with 12:10 left to break the game's final tie and give North Carolina a 51-48 lead. That started a 16-6 run capped by McCants' only three of the game that made it 64-54 with 7:54 to go.



Duke's Sheldon Williams, Lee Melchioni, Daniel Ewing and Shavlik Randolph, all of whom fouled out, watch Maryland complete a 99-92 win Saturday night.

Duke: ACC matchup turned on late fouls

DUKE, FROM BACK PAGE

Held to eight points before late foul, Redick sank his first three-pointer with 10 seconds elapsed in the second half. He then put the Blue Devils in front 52-50 with another shot from beyond the arc with 18:08 left — Duke's first lead since 27-26.

Minutes later, Williams scored on a tip and followed a Maryland turnover with a three-point play to make it 59-50. Another three-pointer by Redick put Duke up by five, and after Maryland pulled even, Williams made a layup and Melchioni hit a three-pointer to spark an 11-2 run.

Jones then scored the game's next eight points to make it 73-73 with 8:26 left.

Maryland committed only one turnover in the first half, outscored Duke 24-18 and got 16 points from Gilchrist in taking a 48-43 halftime lead.

The sellout crowd of 17,950 arrived hours before tipoff, and the atmosphere in the arena at tipoff was electrifying. Those in attendance included former Boston Celtics coach Red Auerbach, Baltimore Ravens coach Brian Billick and former Orioles infielder Cal Ripken.

The noise level jumped another notch when Caner-Medley scored off the opening tip and Gilchrist hit a short jumper. After Duke closed to 11-9, Gilchrist made a layup and three-pointer to up the margin to seven.

Redick didn't get his first basket until nearly eight minutes were elapsed. Ewing kept the Blue Devils close by scoring 11 of their first 16 points, and he gave Duke its first lead with a three-pointer that made it 24-22.

But Maryland used a 9-0 spurt to shred 33-27, and the Terrapins stayed in front until Redick and Williams got going early in the second half.

Graham gives second-half boost to LSU

The Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — After Joey Graham struggled in the first half, scoring just one basket, Oklahoma State came up with a simple second-half strategy: Don't let it happen again.

Graham hit three three-pointers and scored 11 points in the first five minutes of the second half, sending No. 10 Oklahoma State on the way to a 66-59 victory over Texas A&M on Saturday night.

"We thought the first half he was rushing shots," Oklahoma State assistant Sean Sutton said. "They were being pretty physical with him. We wanted to try and establish him coming out of the half-time. He enabled us to build the lead."

Texas A&M went on a 9-2 run capped by Bobby Leach's two free throws with 1:25 remaining. But Ivan McFarlin scored three points in the final minute to seal it for Oklahoma State (19-3, 9-2 Big 12), which won its fifth straight.

McFarlin made a layup with 51 seconds left to extend Oklahoma State's lead and quiet a raucous crowd of 13,016, which included former President George H.W. Bush. He also hit the front end of a one-and-one after a missed three-point attempt by Texas A&M (15-6, 4-6), putting the game out of reach.

John Lucas III scored 18 points for Oklahoma State, and McFarlin finished with 13.

Men's Top 25 Roundup

"We have to execute at the end," Lucas said. "We did that today. We're an old, mature team that doesn't get rattled."

Graham's final three-pointer pushed Oklahoma State's lead to 42-27. He finished with 17 points.

"He just did what coach told he could do," Texas A&M's Joseph Jones said.

Graham made one more basket before he was whistled for his fourth foul with 12:29 remaining and taken out of the game. McFarlin took over, scoring the Cow-

boys' next six points. Graham returned with 6:41 remaining.

"When he's off the court, it changes the look of our team a little bit," Sutton said. "He's a great weapon and is extremely versatile. But I thought Ivan stepped up and made some big baskets."

No. 14 Gonzaga 61, Loyola Marymount 58: At Los Angeles, Ronny Turiaf had 20 points and 11 rebounds and Gonzaga (19-4, 10-2 West Coast Conference) dodged a huge upset by holding off Loyola Marymount.

J.J. Batista scored his only three points of the game in the final 9:1 seconds, first hitting a layup and then a free throw to give the Bulldogs a four-point lead. Loyola Marymount's Dami-

an Miller missed a potential tying three-pointer at the buzzer.

Turiaf was 6-for-8 from the field and 8-for-11 from the foul line. Adam Morrison added 16 points and 12 rebounds for Gonzaga, which has won six in a row. Loyola Marymount (3-7, 11-12) has lost eight of 10.

No. 15 Utah 64, Colorado State 50: At Salt Lake City, Andrew Bogut scored a career-high 33 points and grabbed 16 rebounds to lead Utah (21-3, 9-0 Mountain West Conference) to its 16th straight victory.

Bogut, who also blocked five shots, missed his first two free throws and then made 17 in a row for the Utes, whose winning streak is second only to top-ranked Illinois' 25 in a row.

Matt Williams scored 17 points for the Rams (9-13, 1-8), who lost their seventh straight game overall and 18th straight on the road.

No. 17 Alabama 71, Mississippi State 45: At Tuscaloosa, Ala., Kennedy Winston scored 22 points and Alabama (19-4, 8-2 Southeastern Conference) shot 58 percent in a victory over Kennesaw State (12-12, 3-8) that gave the Tide a two-game lead over LSU in the SEC West.

Jason Tatum Tide turned a comfortable lead into a rout with a late 16-2 run.

Chuck Davis had 15 points, eight rebounds and five blocked shots for Alabama.

Justin Johnson led the Rebels with 11 points.

Navy, Army lose close games

The Associated Press

LEWISBURG, Pa. — Charles Lee scored 22 points, 19 of them in the first half, to lead Bucknell to a 71-60 victory over Navy on Sunday.

Abdusamad added 10 points for the Bison (17-7, 8-3 Patriot League), who led 34-25 at the half and didn't let Navy (7-17, 3-8) get closer than seven there after.

Greg Sprink scored 14 points

and had 10 rebounds for Navy. George O'Garro contributed 13 points.

Lafayette 76, Army 73: At West Point, N.Y., Sean Kitter scored 21 points, 19 in the second half and the last two on free throws with 5:5 seconds left, as Lafayette (7-17, 3-8 Patriot League) shaved Army (3-20, 1-10).

Matt Bell scored 30 points and Cory Sinning added 20 for Army, which trailed 65-33 by 6:46 before rallying.



UCLA's Ryan Hollins vaults into the crowd to retrieve a loose ball during the first half of Saturday's 83-73 loss to Arizona at Pauley Pavilion.

Timeout, then lights out

Down five in second half, Arizona listens to Olson and then roars away from UCLA with a 19-0 surge

BY JOHN NADEL

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Josh Shipp made a short bank shot to give UCLA a five-point lead, Arizona coach Lute Olson angrily called a timeout, and the Pauley Pavilion crowd of 12,681 went wild.

It appeared the Bruins just might be on their way to an upset of the 12th-ranked Wildcats. Turned out they didn't come close.

Arizona came out of the timeout and silenced the UCLA fans by scoring 19 straight points, and the Wildcats went on to beat the Bruins 83-73 on Saturday.

"Once we got that timeout, the guys came out and made it tough for UCLA to score," Olson said.

Salim Stoudamire and Ivan Radenovic scored six points each during the run, triggered by Channing Frye's three-point play with 17:14 remaining.

When it was over, the Wildcats led 61-47.

"It went quick," UCLA freshman Jordan Farmer said. "They made some big shots and we took some bad ones."

The Bruins only made the game appear closer at the end by scoring the last 11 points.

"We all decided we needed to stop being selfish," said Stoudamire, who scored 15 of his 22 points in the second half to lead the Wildcats.

"Defense, and we rebounded, got transition buckets. They got a

little tired," Stoudamire replied when asked about the decisive run. "I don't think that's the best we've played. It's up there, though."

Radenovic had 19 points and 12 rebounds, Mustafa Shakur scored 17, and Frye and Hassan Adams added 11 each for Arizona.

The Wildcats outrebounded the Bruins 26-12 after halftime and 39-31 overall.

"That was one of the best halves because we played together," Adams said. "I was just loving the way we were playing."

By winning for the 18th time in 20 games and beating UCLA soundly for the third straight year at Pauley Pavilion, the Wildcats (21-4, 11-2 Pac-10) moved into first place in the conference. No. 11 Washington (20-3, 10-2) played Sunday at Oregon State.

Olson's 301st victory in Pac-10 play since taking at Arizona in 1983 moved him within three of record-holder John Wooden, who watched the game from behind the Bruins' bench. Wooden guided UCLA to a 304-74 conference record before retiring in 1975. Olson's teams are 301-86 against Pac-10 opponents. The 70-year-old Olson and 94-year-old Wooden are both members of the Basketball Hall of Fame.

"If and when it happens, it will be bittersweet," Olson said of surpassing Wooden. "He was the greatest ever. It's always a pleasure to come and see him."

Farmer led the Bruins (13-7, 7-6) with 27 points and five assists. Arron Affalo added 13 points and Dijon Thompson and Brian Morrison scored 10 each for UCLA.

Stoudamire's three-point play with 13:04 left completed the game-deciding run. Morrison made two free throws a minute later for UCLA's first points in 5½ minutes.

"We fueled that by not doing a good job getting on their shooters," UCLA coach Ben Howland said. "We took a lot of questionable shots. They were more patient than we were. It's the sign of a veteran team, an experienced team."

Thompson, averaging nearly 19 points, committed two fouls in the first five minutes, and had only three points in the first half on one of his team's eight three-pointers.

"We were prepared for him," Adams said. "He just came off a great game against ASU. We didn't want him to have another one."

Thompson scored 27 of his career-high 39 points in the first half of UCLA's 95-76 victory over Arizona State on Thursday night.

"Every time I was on the floor and turned my back, they sent defenders at me," Thompson said. "I just missed shots. They were in and out. They felt good, but just didn't go in. After a 39-point game, teams are going to come after you, and they played tough 'D' today."

Utah St., San Diego St. wonder what happened as victories become losses

The Associated Press

UNLV and Pacific were just as shocked by their respective comebacks as San Diego State and Utah State were with their collapses.

Odyssey Blanksen scored 23 points and Michael Umeah had 22 for UNLV, which made up a 10-point deficit with less than 30 seconds remaining in regulation and beat San Diego State 93-91 in overtime Saturday.

"That was as great of an effort as I've ever seen," Umeah said. "We just tried to stay positive the whole time. I just couldn't believe it. We just wanted to keep scrapping and see what happened."

"It's hard to believe."

No. 24 Pacific, which had lost 30 of its previous 31 games at Logan, Utah, overcame an eight-point deficit with 37 seconds left to beat Utah State 64-63, the Tigers' 16th straight victory.

"Winning that game was like a minor miracle," Pacific coach Bob Thomson admitted.

Utah State coach Stew Morrill saw it a bit differently.

"We made stupid, stupid mistakes," Morrill said. "We gift-wrapped it and gave this one away. This is the stupidest loss I have ever been involved in."

"I'm not going to sugarcoat it. We were stupid."

"This was the most disappointing loss that I have ever played in. A 10-point lead with 28, 29 seconds left. I never thought in my life I would see this."

Marcus Slaughter

San Diego State

Mike Webb made two three-pointers and Christian Maraker hit a jumper with 2.5 seconds remaining as Pacific (20-2, 14-0 Big West) stunned the Aggies.

With Pacific trailing 61-53, Marko Mihalovic was fouled on a three-pointer and made three free throws. Tate Harris hit two foul shots for the Aggies, but Webb responded with a three-pointer and, after Utah State turnover, hit another, and Pacific was within 63-62.

David Pak missed two free throws for the Aggies with 11 seconds to go, setting the stage for Maraker's 16-footer.

"This is as good as it gets as far as comebacks go," Thomson said. "These guys don't miss that many free throws. Thank goodness they missed those two."

"No one's going to sleep well tonight," Utah State's Spencer Nelson said. "I wish I could give them credit for the win, but we gave this one away. We didn't play very smart in the last minute. We made five stupid mistakes in the last minute — but this is not the season and we will see them again."

UNLV trailed 81-71 with 28.5 seconds left after San Diego State's Matt Thomas made two free throws. Blanksen scored off a rebound with 17.8 seconds left, then was fouled taking a three-pointer and made all three free throws with 13.6 seconds left to pull the Runnin' Rebels within 81-76.

After San Diego State's Trinaime Davis missed two free throws, Jerel Blasingame made a three-pointer with 7.6 seconds left to make it 81-79.

When Davis made only the second of two free throws with 5.6 seconds left, UNLV had a chance and Terry made it pay off with a three-pointer at the buzzer.

"This was the most disappointing loss that I have ever played in," San Diego State's Marcus Slaughter said after a 25-point, 10-rebound performance went for naught. "A 10-point lead with 28, 29 seconds left. I never thought in my life I would see this."



Pacific's Marko Mihalovic hugs teammate Mike Webb in celebration of the Tigers' unlikely 64-63 victory over Utah State.

SPORTS

Wade has hand in victory



San Antonio Spurs' Tony Parker, right, loses the ball after being fouled by Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade in the second half Sunday, in Miami. The Heat won 96-92, their first win over the Spurs since 2002. Wade scored 28 points in the game between conference leaders. See story on Page 37.



Mickelson dominating at Pebble, leads by seven entering final round, Page 35

Terps, fouls throw Duke for OT loss

Maryland pulls away after 5 Blue Devils sent to bench

BY DAVID GINSBURG
The Associated Press

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — For 40 minutes, Duke withstood a spirited effort by Maryland in front of a fervent, hostile crowd.

In overtime, however, the seventh-ranked Blue Devils were worn out — and nearly out of players.

Travis Garrison had 17 points and 11 rebounds, and the Terrapins pulled away for a 99-92 victory Saturday night. Including their win in the finals of the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament last March, the Terps have won three straight against Duke for the first time since 1982.

"I think it's great. You realize the games were close, so you don't gloat," Maryland coach Gary Williams said. "You just feel good because you beat a great program and a great coach."

John Gilchrist scored 19 points, Chris McCray had 17 and reserve guard Mike Jones added 15 for Maryland (15-7, 6-5 ACC), which completed its first regular-season sweep of the Blue Devils since 1995.

"Good teams play well against each other," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "That's why we play well against them. They're a very good basketball team; they played with high energy and a sense of purpose."

The Blue Devils (18-3, 8-3) staggered to the finish without five players, all of whom fouled out late in regulation or in overtime.

Shelden Williams had 23 points and 16 rebounds, and Daniel Ewing also scored 23. But both were gone long before the finish, as were Shavlik Randolph, Sean Dockery and Lee Melchionni.

"It was frustrating. We were definitely at a disadvantage missing five of our main players," Duke guard J.J. Redick said. "They just had more overall athleticism than we did in overtime because they still had their main guys."

Duke went 0-for-9 from the



Maryland's John Gilchrist and Chris McCray (13) celebrate after beating Duke in OT on Saturday.

field in overtime, securing all four of its points at the line.

With Maryland up 91-90 in the extra session, Garrison scored on a follow and McCray made two foul shots for a five-point cushion.

The Blue Devils simply didn't have enough firepower to mount a comeback.

At the final buzzer, the crowd poured onto the court to celebrate another Maryland victory in one of college basketball's fiercest rivalries.

"It was 12 rounds," Maryland forward Nik Caner-Medley said. "From the break it was up and down and back and forth."

Redick scored 21 for Duke, which fell a game behind first-place Wake Forest in the ACC.

Duke led 86-82 with 1:34 left in regulation, but three-point plays by Gilchrist and Ekezie Beckie put the Terrapins ahead 88-86 with 39 seconds left. Williams fouled out on the latter play, leaving the Blue Devils lacking in the middle.

DeMarcus Nelson scored on a drive to tie it with 34 seconds left, and Gilchrist and Caner-Medley misfired before the final buzzer.

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U.S. skiers fail to medal in nations team event Page 36

